

ACORN

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Newsletter

XV
Fall



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ACORN XV 2

FALL 1990

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A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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President's Report

It was only four short years ago when a recent college graduate, desperately seeking a venue for promoting the preservation of historic buildings, was directed to the local branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. A whole world of activity was opened up to this newcomer: it was an organization which had been very active and highly respected for its efforts in historic preservation for over four decades. Up to that moment I had been completely unaware of the ACO, and even today many who would be our colleagues are still unaware of us.

It must surprise most of you, as it does me, that in such a short time a relatively unknowledgeable person now holds the presidential position in this important organization. I am humbled by the position, and by those very qualified individuals who have held this chair before me; equally I am daunted by the numerous tasks that are now on the table before us.

Roy Turner, now past president, forecast in the last issue of ACORN that "the next two or three years will be crucial to the growth of the ACO. If the aspiration of the Intern's Report are to be fulfilled, the incoming executive will be charged with the task of guiding the ACO through what can and should be the most significant period of its history."

In 1987, as vice-president of the Quinte Region Branch, I attended council meetings in the cramped quarters of our "office" at 720 Spadina Avenue. Today we enjoy the prestige and comfort of the Oval Board Room, plus our office down the hall (which we share with the Huguenot Society) at the Ontario Heritage Centre on Adelaide Street East. The office is still somewhat crowded, but perhaps this is evidence of the vast array of activities we now carry out.

At our September council meeting our Advisory Board (undoubtedly a significant part of our organization) reported on no less than twenty studies currently underway, under the chairmanship of William Moffet. Requests for advice and assistance are increasingly being forwarded to us by the Ministry of Culture and Communications. Our liaison with the Ministry is strong and healthy, and is a great help in assisting our mandate as well as increasing our public profile.

Council has been very involved with other organizations in the Ontario Heritage Policy Review, and the attention and devotion by Alec Keefer and Donna Baker does not go unappreciated. With the recent change in the provincial government, I am assured that Alec will continue to promote the high-priority of

the re-drafting of the Heritage Act to our newest Minister of Culture and Communications.

As this issue goes to press we will have completed the first in a series of heritage preservation workshops, which are taking place across the province during this fall and winter. We welcome Helène Fallen to our office, as co-ordinator of this project.

A new branch has been born, and we welcome Edwin Bennett to Council as the representative for Oxford County Branch. We anticipate further growth with the creation of more branches across the province, while we also aim for a doubling of our current membership.

Perhaps the most tangible evidence, for our members, of council activities, is the publication in your hands. ACORN has undergone some changes, and growth too, as demonstrated by the revised format, but also by the appointment of our new Editor, Marg Rowell.

The "Camden East Project" — the restoration of the Skinner/Jackson House — is moments away from completion, and has been handled with dedication by Roy Turner, with the assistance of Bob Sculthorpe, chairman of the Heritage Fund Committee, along with countless other individuals who have volunteered their time during cleanup operations.

The Toronto Branch, always very active, has recently completed two valuable publications for the ACO: *Toronto's Theatre Block: An Architectural History*, and *Terra Cotta: Artful Deceivers; Terra Cotta as Building Material in Ontario, 1884-1924*.

Members of the Quinte Branch are busily compiling photographs and information on two dozen walking tours it has conducted, in preparation for publication.

All these activities strengthen our public presence, while involving many of our members, yet there is always room for additional personnel. We are presently reaching a critical point in the history of the ACO. Discussion of the need for an executive director must immediately give way to positive action. We have received correspondence from at least one interested individual, and now we must focus on the means for funding this position. Our target date for the appointment is January 1992. The task of running our organization is becoming onerous for our Executive Secretary, Anne Hughson. With a growing list of activities, increased responsibilities, and a vast network of volunteers, we need a full-time director in order to become more effective in stemming the deterioration and destruction of our architectural heritage. Our heritage, our culture,

in fact our identity, and likewise the quality of life in the natural and built environment, is continually threatened.

Attendance at Council meetings varies, and it is crucial to our volunteer network that representation from the branches is maintained. Those who attend faithfully will attest to the importance of contact with other branches and council; those who are unable to attend are missing the exciting and unique opportunities we are participating in. To be effective, with or without our executive director, we must pull together with our varied backgrounds and interests, in carrying out our mandate of preservation. Participation in the activities of Council is an important part of membership, and a responsibility to be taken seriously. Understandably it is virtually impossible to gather representation from all branches on one day, on a regular basis, but your executive seeks direction from the branches, in accommodating our volunteers.

Being a novice in this rapidly expanding field, I seek the support of our members, and I look forward to input from the branches at council. In the near future we will be arranging a meeting of all branch presidents, to discuss the future years of unprecedented growth and activity of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

Gilles Miramontes AOCA

Important Notice

Please turn to the back of this issue and read about the

**November 10, 1990
ACO ACORN EVENT**

Editorial

The revitalization of the business districts of our towns and cities is an ongoing project that involves a lot of groups and individuals such as the Chamber of Commerce, municipal officials, BIA, LACACs and property owners. The businessman's main concern is competing with climate controlled malls that offer ample parking. In an attempt to attract more customers to the downtown, many business districts have taken on a new look. Streetscape studies have been done by consultants, often at great expense. These studies sometimes result in new street signs, street lighting, benches, decorative waste baskets, flower beds and trees appearing in the main streets. The building of parking garages is sited as a solution to the lack of on street parking. All of these changes have a dramatic impact on the downtown. However, the renovation of the buildings probably has the most impact of all. In towns and cities fortunate enough to have a hard working concerned LACAC and a branch of the ACO there is no lack of enthusiasm for bringing the buildings back to what they were before the flat aluminum façades covered over corbelled brickwork, brackets and other Victorian features. Many building owners agonize over what type of windows and doors should grace the building's renovated façade. Unfortunately, at times, they look to south of the border for inspiration, with the result that the building now exhibits characteristics of Colonial Williamsburg. They have the best of intentions but a good look at the building and a search for early photographs will often provide the design that is just right for their building.

ACO branches have a golden opportunity to educate shop owners and municipal politicians as to the possibilities of business district renovations done the right way. Some shining examples in Ontario come to mind such as Port Hope and Stratford.

OUR APOLOGY

We apologize most sincerely to the Frontenac Historic Foundation for not acknowledging that the article "The Restoration of the North Americal Hotel" (Picton) by André Scheinman which appeared in ACORN XV 1 page 4 first appeared in the Foundation's newsletter in February 1990.

We thank Elizabeth Mullan co-editor for bringing this to our attention.

The Founding of Community Heritage Ontario: The New Provincial LACAC Organization

At the LACAC Conference held at the University of Guelph in June official delegates from LACACs across the province voted by a large majority to form a provincial service organization to be named Community Heritage Ontario. The possibility of setting up such an organization was first raised at the conference held two years ago in Sault Ste. Marie, where a motion was made and passed by an overwhelming majority of conference delegates to create a steering committee to investigate and make recommendations on the formation of a provincial association of LACACs. A number of individuals representing LACACs in different parts of the province volunteered to sit on this committee, which was to present its recommendations at the next LACAC Conference (Guelph, 1990). Among the reasons given for creating such an organization were better communication and dissemination of information between LACACs, better liaison with other heritage groups in the province (especially provincial organization or associations such as the ACO; the Ontario Historical Society, the Ontario Museum Association and the Ontario Archeological Society), and more effective and representative input into the Ontario Heritage Policy Review (particularly the proposed amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act and any proposed changes to heritage funding programmes). An immediate step towards improving communications between LACACs at the Sault Ste. Marie conference, with the launching of a newsletter to be edited by LACAC co-ordinator Mary Lou Evans (Ministry of Culture and Communications, Heritage Branch). Four issues of the twice yearly newsletter, LACAC News, have been published to date. Copies are sent to every LACAC in the province and are available to other heritage groups upon request.

Over the next two years the steering committee worked diligently to prepare for the Guelph meeting. A survey to determine the needs, resources, and activities of the LACACs and whether or not they were in favour of a provincial service organization was distributed to all LACACs. (Of the 81 LACACs that responded, 72 favoured the formation of such an organization.) The steering committee then developed and sent to all Ontario LACACs a summary of the survey, the proposed incorporation name, a mission statement and objectives for the provincial organization.

Mission Statement

Community Heritage Ontario is a non-profit organization of volunteer, municipally appointed, heritage advisory committees which assists the development of community and regional volunteer, municipal heritage advisory committess; promotes community heritage conservation, interpretation and development locally, provincially and federally; and encourages the realization of the full range of heritage resources, responsibilities and opportunities of every Ontario community, with emphasis on the built heritage.

Objectives

- *to research and disseminate information to municipal heritage advisory committees and encourage the exchange of information among heritage groups;*
- *to encourage and co-operate with municipal heritage groups in co-ordinating programs and activities;*
- *to assist with the ongoing professional development of municipal heritage advisory committees and their administrative staffs;*
- *to ascertain and make known the needs, concerns and recommendations of the members regarding municipal heritage conservation, interpretation and development to the Government of Ontario and its agencies;*
- *to co-ordinate the development of provincial policies and strategies related to community heritage issues;*
- *to communicate on behalf of community heritage in Ontario to all levels of government;*
- *and to encourage and assist the real estate, development and building industries and the planning and architectural professions in achieving appropriate uses for heritage properties.*

Among other tasks undertaken in this two-year period, the steering committee participated in the Ontario Heritage Policy Review and the review of the POA (Preserving Ontario's Architecture) Program, and drafted and circulated to all LACACs for comment a set of by-laws to govern the operation of Community Heritage Ontario.

Thus, after two years of research, polling and government negotiations, the matter was

finally brought to a vote in Guelph. The proposed name, mission statement and objectives were adopted at a special session of the Guelph conference. This session served as the founding meeting of Community Heritage Ontario, at which an Interim Board of Directors was elected. John Harrison, member of the Owen Sound LACAC and former vice-chairman of the steering committee, was elected chairman with Heather Broadbent from the Caledon Heritage Committee as vice-chairman. This Interim Board, with twenty members plus LACAC co-ordinator Mary Lou Evans acting as the Ministry Liaison, plans to meet bimonthly until the first General Annual Meeting is held, at which time it will be replaced by a permanent Board of Directors composed of regional representatives and additional directors-at-large. The precise break-down of the province into regions (seven tentatively proposed) and the number of representatives per region has yet to be determined. The regions and regional representation will be firmly established when the set of regulatory by-laws for the new organization is formally adopted at the first Annual General Meeting, which will be held after Community Heritage Ontario is incorporated. The incorporation process should be completed this fall but it is not presently anticipated that the First Annual General Meeting will take place before the next LACAC conference in 1992. This will give the Interim Board time to obtain more feedback from LACACs on the proposed set of by-laws before it is finalized and take the necessary steps to establish a financial basis for the organization.

The chairman of the Interim Board has indicated that over the next two years the Interim Board will also develop regular communications with all LACACs and municipal governments in Ontario and will continue to provide input into the proposed amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act and the ongoing review of the POA program. The Board will act as the provincial representative of LACACs at the annual Heritage Policy Review Forums which the Ministry of Culture and Communications plans to hold during Heritage Week (for the purpose of fostering an ongoing partnership between government and non-government bodies to work on various initiatives proposed in *A Strategy for Conserving Ontario's Heritage: The Report of the Ontario Heritage Policy Review*). In addition, the Board will develop a budget for the new organization, make recommendations with respect to the composition, duties, etc. of the permanent board, and recruit members. It is hoped that all LACACs will join Community Heritage Ontario; and with this objective in

mind, the Interim Board plans to distribute information packages outlining the background, mandate and proposed programs and activities of the LACAC organization as part of its membership recruitment drive and to encourage the active participation of LACACs in its development through questionnaires. The Interim Board has already opened lines of communication with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and with several other provincial heritage organizations, including the ACO, at the Ministry's symposium held in June to deal with the proposed amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act.

Clearly, there is much to be gained from closer co-operation between LACACs and the ACO; and it may be hoped that the new provincial LACAC organization will help to bring this about. The roles of the ACO and Community Heritage Ontario should be complementary and mutually supportive, both at the provincial and local level. While the provincial LACAC organization, being an umbrella group for advisory committees to municipal councils, lacks the freedom of the Conservancy to play a strong advocacy role with respect to specific heritage preservation issues, Community Heritage Ontario could have a strong collective voice to speak on behalf of LACACs on issues of policy, legislation and funding.

Ann Gillespie

Quinte Region

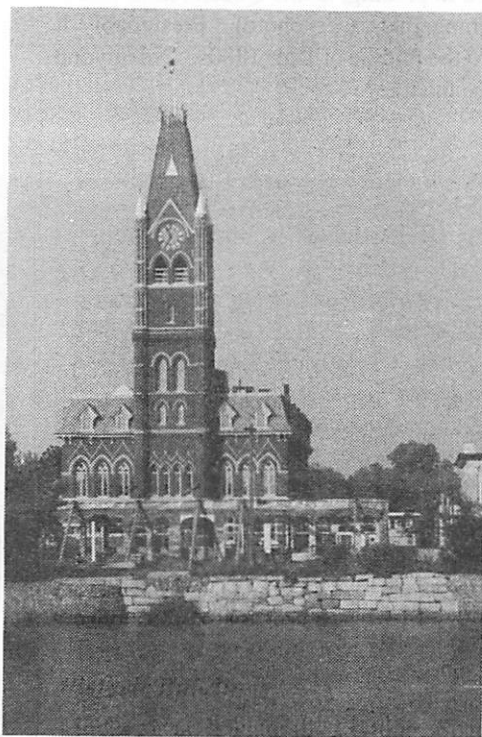
THE CABLEVUE SAGA

You will be aware now that although Teddingtons had signed an agreement vowing to protect the façade of Belleville's Cablevue Building they failed to put up the necessary steel bracing and on April 23, following some interior demolitions, the building began to collapse and had to be taken down. All that remains is the stone arcade of the main floor along the street — admittedly the handsomest and most essential part.

Our photo shows the result: a one-storey free-standing screen propped up temporarily till it's figured out what to do next. Belleville's City Hall (recently cleaned and renovated) stands like a new toy in the sunshine. This is what the Mayor and some of Council wanted all along — an open plaza on the riverbank to show off City Hall.

The purist approach is to assert that this arcade is a valuable artifact and might be left standing as a feature in an open plaza, but that to rebuild the upper parts would be a falsification.

The LACAC has to say, I think, that they had agreed from the start that most of the building was too shaky to keep, and that a look-alike approximation of the missing two storeys is the best they hoped for and will keep the Victorian streetscape idea intact, and that this is what the developer engaged to do.



Cableview Arcade remains propped up along street with Belleville City Hall behind it.

R. C. GREIG

Striking as the City Hall now appears (and no one has ever seen it this way before), it really is out of proportion. It would never have had such a tall tower if it was meant to be fully revealed. Baroque town planning places important buildings at the head of a vista, but the Gothic style is to let your towers rise above a jumble of lesser buildings, and that's what the builder counted on here, and heightened his tower accordingly.

Teddingtons are going to tie in their new developments with the design of City Hall, and we have to point out that the recent renovations leave a lot of matters unresolved. For one thing, City Hall was built with four great tall upward-reaching chimneys that once helped to offset the boxy proportions of the main part. Secondly, iron roof-cresting originally helped to soften the too-emphatic horizontal of the roof-line, and if restored it could help to hide the skylight and various modern machinery that have recently sprung up to mar the roofscape. Thirdly, the city fathers might recollect that mansard roofs in the 1870s were commonly sheathed in coloured slates hung in patterns, and the current asphalt shingles don't do much to suggest quality. If Teddingtons are to tie in with City Hall, let's give them the handsomest possible model to relate to.

LOYALIST PARKWAY

Our Quinte Region Branch joins other and older organizations in taking a keen interest in that segment of Highway 33 from Kingston to Trenton now consecrated as the Loyalist Parkway.

Distressing it certainly was, years ago, to see the Celanese plant, a cement plant, and the Lennox generating station all come to be built on the old road that winds picturesquely along the shore from hamlet to hamlet through some of the province's earliest settled farmland.

But these three huge plants, though they change the scale of things, are worth coming to see for themselves. At least, the generating station is uncommonly handsome (if they don't get it all hidden with trees), and the cement plant with its conveyor bridging the road looks dramatic and the huge ships loading up by the shore are fun to see and a very proper concomitant of the mighty water system that the highway follows.

Though an inland route has been built that might be expected to take traffic off the Parkway, still there is great pressure to develop the waterfront. Year by year, a shocking rash of new and expensive houses spreads out from Kingston and other centres. We don't travel

the Parkway to admire a trade show of builders' wares, but that's what we're getting.

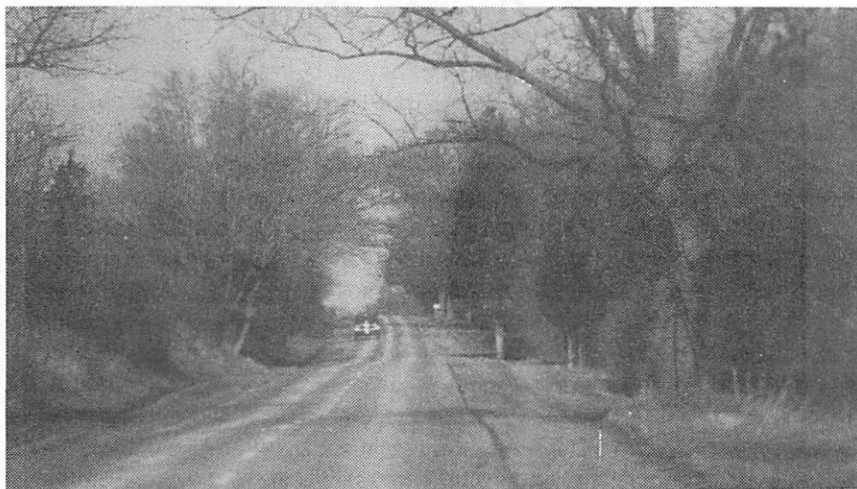
And year by year the Ministry of Transportation is rebuilding segments of the road. Curves are smoothed out, dips and hollows flattened, overhanging trees eliminated, ditches like tank traps dug each side. Bridges are rebuilt, one to be four feet higher than it was, and one seven feet. It's mostly for the new breed of commuters, one supposes, but the original old road that the Parkway concept was supposed to protect is being lost sight of.

In the works is the rebuilding of the Adolphustown segment — the first five miles or so east of the Glenora ferry. And any change here would be truly criminal and unnecessary. This is the heart of the Parkway, the part one mainly goes to see. It's like an English lane in places, with high banks and shrubbery crowding down nearly to the pavement, glimpses of farm fields between the trunks of trees that form a canopy over the road. For a mile or so there aren't even any utility wires. Apple orchards line both sides of the road for a space. The traveller takes a bend through the ancient hamlet of Adolphustown and then the road gently trickles along till you stop at the ferry. Apart from a lot of summer-cottage-type properties the ferry is your only destination at this end of things. Dead silence, while you muse and meditate, admire the view of the headland across the water, watch perhaps an ocean-going vessel glide by, and await the next car ferry, which always comes soon.

The two ferry boats, when they finally get lengthened to carry 32 cars each, and if they rush and make five trips per hour each way, will be able to carry a total of about three hundred cars per hour. We can visualize a tunnel or a high-level bridge here, but traffic for most of the year is too light to justify anything of the sort. And either of these would surely put an end to the "Loyalist Parkway experience", of which that old-time rural road and the ferry ride are essential factors.

It's true the cars line up for miles on a sunny Sunday in the summer, on their way to the Sandbanks, but that makes for even less tendency to speed, doesn't it? The road need not be built to accommodate more than the ferry will handle. Anyway, the road is virtually straight already, except for the bend through Adolphustown and that is a desirable feature.

So we hope the Ministry will heed the efforts of those who have been working for many decades to institute the Parkway, and do their part to preserve this most essential bit.

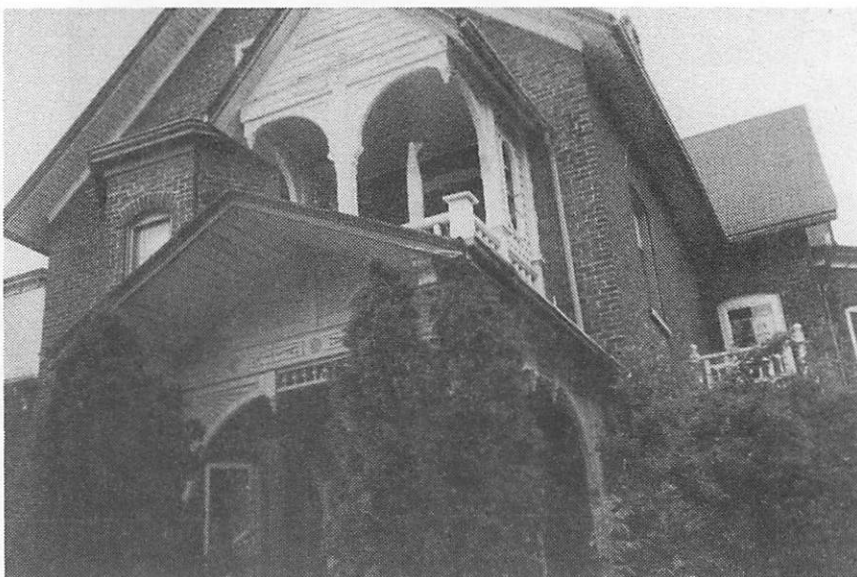


The Loyalist Parkway
East of Adolphustown

A QUEEN-ANNEITY

The Quinte Region Branch continues its third-Sunday walking tours eleven months per year, under the direction of president Bazil Kuglin, and has planned the same for 1991. We have been well received in various places, being treated to interesting tours with well-prepared maps and information leaflets from local LACACs or historical societies — something we have hardly ever managed to do on our own. Barriefield, Menie, Trenton, and Colborne come to mind as models in this regard.

Not on the tour of Trenton particularly, but snapped in passing, is this Queen Anne verandah arrangement (see photo). Presumably it dates to the middle or later 1880s. Did anyone ever see the like?



A Queen Anneity of
perhaps the late 1880s

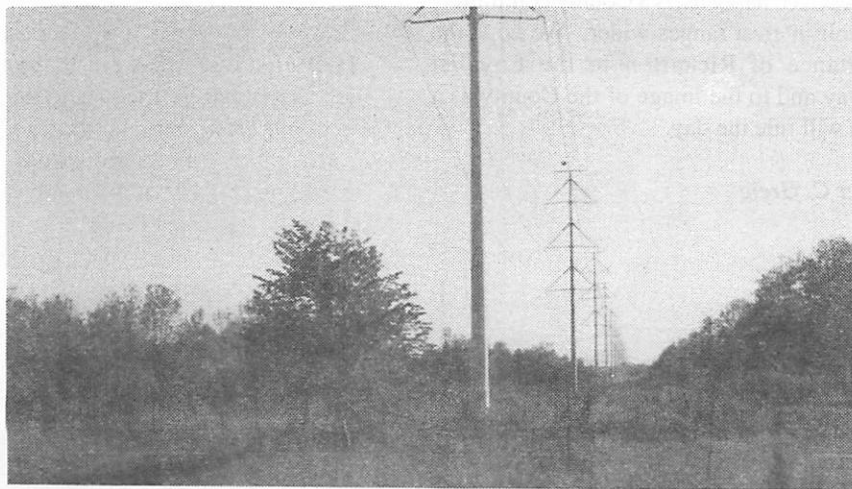
BELLEVILLE LACAC

Heritage Belleville, as the LACAC there calls itself, is preparing a publication containing photos, history, and architectural descriptions of some hundreds of buildings in Belleville, with some attempt at a priority rating. This massive undertaking is well advanced, with the help of summer students in various years and three winter works employees last year. Particularly impressive are the histories, the result of something like fourteen years labour by a committee of the Hastings County Historical Society who searched out registry office records, newspaper articles, old photos, and family papers relating to hundreds of properties in the city.

HYDRO

Who will take up the battle against Ontario Hydro? They may have the RIGHT to put their poles more or less where they want — but they have the RESPONSIBILITY (which we all share) to help maintain the visual amenity of our surroundings.

See the huge poles they have been erecting on Highway 62 north of Mountain View. Look again at the palisade of monstrous poles they installed on the Loyalist Parkway, Highway 33, between Carrying Place and Consecon and then around the corner on Co. Rd. 1. Note the array of tremendous installations on the road north of Brighton to Warkworth and Campbellford and say whether all this does not mar the landscape. Consider the spiky army of new poles marching north from Lindsay into Cottage Country — but maybe the army of motor cars on that road makes appreciation of views unlikely anyway.



Cross Country electric line intersecting Highway 49 Sophiasburgh north of Picton

R. C. GREIG

I speak as one who is fond of utility wires. There is something companionable about electric wires or phone cables looping from pole to pole or from pole to house — a certain connectedness, is it? There is a sense of security in the modest-sized lines that run along a short way between road and water on Highway 33 near the Lennox Generating Station, making a kind of fence that helps frame the immensity of the view.

I was actually offended when utility wires were taken down, on the west side of Highway 62 just north of the road to Centre, for they had served to stitch the landscape together, visually speaking. On Highway 49 south of the high-level bridge to Tyendinaga one feels privileged to cross under the line of handsome single-stem pylons like giant lollipops stuck in the rocky ground: I always crane my neck to see if they are in a straight line and they always are.

But enough is too much already. The scale of our landscape is in jeopardy. Everyone should make his individual and collective displeasure plain, to members of parliament, government ministers, the premier, and the president and chairman of Hydro.

TECHNICALITIES

Dear Reader: Can you give us some information on these matters? If so, write the editor. We will publish the answers in the next ACORN.

Putlog Holes

These are the holes left in a masonry wall to insert the short horizontal timbers of a scaffolding, their outer ends being supported by the ledger. I see in the Oxford English Dictionary the earliest use of the term in the 17th century. My own brick house (south of Picton, built c. 1823) has these holes all over it, and I think I spied some on a Williamsburg VA house, but I don't generally notice them on Ontario houses. Or am I just being unobservant? What is the history of scaffolding in Ontario?

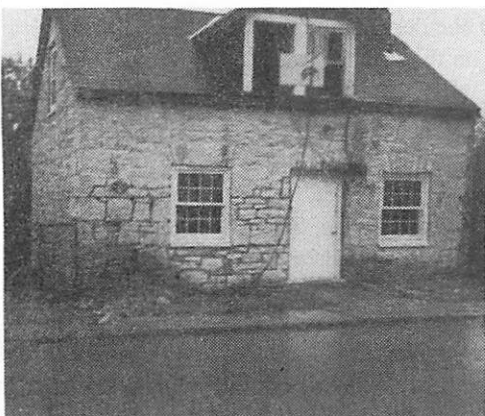
Fan Lights

I understand full well that rectangular transom lights are sometimes called fan lights, and the term can even be justified somewhat because there is often a fan-shaped ornament within such a rectangle. Now, I want to know this: In a fully glazed door-case the transom sometimes goes straight across the full width of the entrance void, stretching across both the door and the sidelights, and sometimes the transom

is only the width of the door, with the sidelights going all the way to the top of the entrance void. (In both types, of course, there are generally solid panels below chair-rail height, though it's possible to find examples where the glazing goes right down to the floor.) Do we have simple terminology to distinguish these two types? Is it a datable feature to find side glazing running right to the top?

FRONTENAC HISTORIC FOUNDATION

The Frontenac Historic Foundation in Kingston have been getting a lot of attention in the Whig-Standard recently. They held their regular September garden party and awards ceremony on the ground of the 1830s Hyland-Stanton house in Barriefield village (see photo). This tiny stone cottage is the fourth house that the Foundation has purchased and rehabilitated to sell again with protective covenants. Tiny is the word in this case: Ceilings are only six feet six inches and there is only 600 square feet of floor space on both levels; but according to Whig-Standard, Craig Sims of Kingston, a "restoration technologist", is designing board-and-batten wings at back and side that will provide modern living space.



R. C. GREIG

Hyland-Stanton Cottage 1830s
Barriefield Village

RICKARTON CASTLE

Picton was a two-castle town till four years ago when picturesque old Villeneuve blew up. Rickarton Castle continues to be a monument to the social and commercial development of the Town as well as an important landmark in this tourist-oriented area.

Rickarton was open as a pub till not long ago, and recently got painted better than ever. Yet now the owners declare that their engineer-

ing and architectural advisors tell them it's too far gone, would cost a million dollars to fix up, and anyway doesn't suit their purposes. They have asked the Town for a demolition permit.

Too much is said about "rights" and not enough about "responsibilities". As the philosopher maintained, you don't own your property: it owns you.

No one should waste sympathy on these owners. They knew when they bought the property that they were buying an important landmark and they have had plenty of time to do routine repairs to keep the weather out. Maybe the Town should be invoking its property standards by-law to make sure the fabric is protected.

A competent architect — and we presume that is what the owners have got for a massive job like this seven-acre development — is able to make his designs suit the existing features of a site. One would have thought the sham-castle motif would fit in splendidly with Post-Modern trends in building.

Anyway, what are we talking about? This "castle" is not big. It's basically an ordinary rectangular masonry house, with a masonry tower and some medieval trimmings added a little later. The notable rear verandah is substantial and largely intact, and the drawing room with its curved doors and attractive Classical plaster work seems to be still all there. A lot of battlements and quoins have fallen off or been removed from the exterior, but these are just so much stage-scenery, not a structural problem. Rickarton is no bigger than lots of houses currently being built. If it were a burned-out shell it still would not be a huge restoration problem, as heritage restorations go.

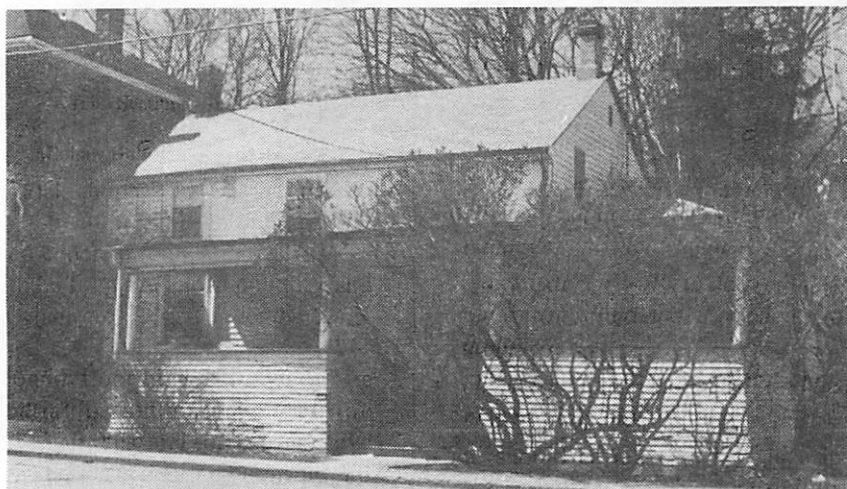
Picton's mayor and council seem to be hesitating to put their foot down because of possible financial liability to the town. But LACAC, as it happens, is a County committee, and their interest ranges wider. We hope the importance of Rickarton to the Loyalist Parkway and to the image of the County as a whole will rule the day.

Rodger C. Greig

Port Hope

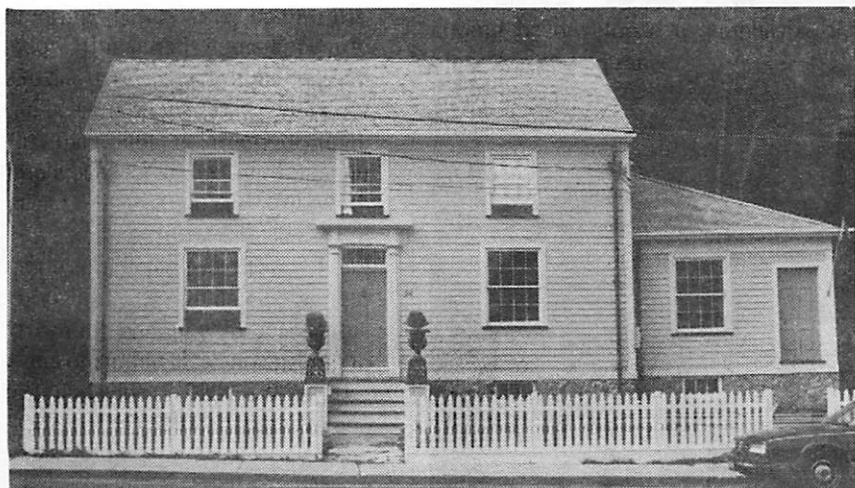
WHAT A TRANSFORMATION!

It took a keen eye to spot the redeeming features of a forgotten house on John Street, but Lee Caswell (our current Branch president) and Amy Quinn knew a diamond in the rough when they saw the tired frame home across from Port Hope's post office. It stood shrouded by an overgrowth of shrubs, its pre-Victorian silhouette disguised by an oversized verandah of later vintage, but the couple recognized certain early features — the symmetrical Loyalist façade, the restrained trim and good proportions.



Before: Behind the overgrown lilac and beneath the decaying verandah lurks a fine house of 1830s vintage

The house turns out to be one of Port Hope's oldest, likely dating to the 1830s. Originally thought to be an inn (the wing at the side with separate entrance could well have been a tap room), it is built of timber frame construction



After: What a transformation! The restored clapboard dwelling was a highlight on this year's house tour. Restored windows, cornice gutter, doorcase and shingle roof are of special note

TOM CHIRUCKSHANK

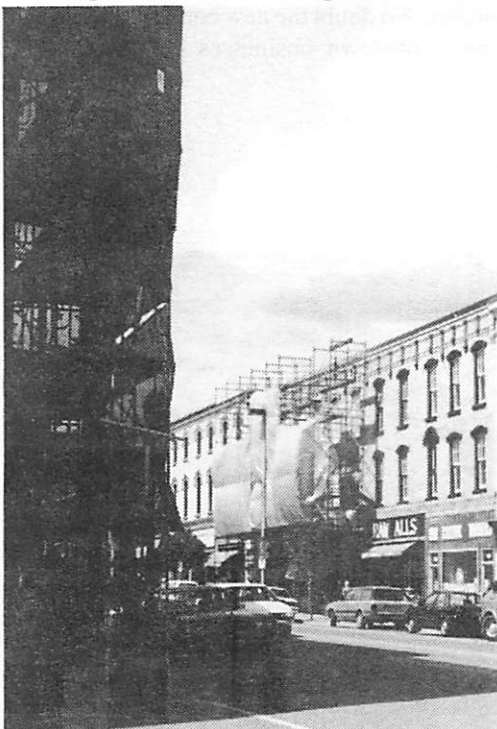
TOM CHIRUCKSHANK

and inside, it contains much of its early trim and woodwork. The restoration, which was on view to the public on this year's house tour, has been a painstaking process, but the owners are to be congratulated for their perseverance and determination. Today, with clapboard rendered a bright yellow, the house stands out as the pride of John Street. Funny how just a year ago, only a handful of preservationists knew it even existed.

The John Street house is only one of the local houses whose future seems more secure in the hands of caring owners. All over town there are examples of deserving houses being treated to the restorationist's touch, and it's heartening to see. One brick cottage was recently stripped of its angelstone façade; here and there a verandah has reappeared according to period precedent, and almost daily we hear about plan for the renewal of yet another house. Maybe the ACO's message is finally getting across after all.

WALTON STREET NEWS

The pride of Port Hope has always been its main street, Walton Street, so it was encouraging to see the extent of restoration work in the downtown core this past summer. Scaffolding seemed to be everywhere as building owners set their sights on various



All of downtown Port Hope seemed to be shrouded by scaffolding this past summer. At extreme left, the Horner Building (ACORN XIV.2) is cloaked as masonry repairs proceed while across the street, a commercial block is treated to a chemical wash.

TOM CHIRUCKSHANK

maintenance and restorative tasks. At the bottom of the street, the 1840s Waddell block, one of the most accomplished of our commercial structures, is being renewed according to historic patterns, a replaced shopfront and cornice, cupola, original colour schemes, and extensive masonry work will bring this anchor building back to near original appearance.

Meanwhile, across the river, another owner has embarked on a successful second and third-floor renovation, no small achievement considering the vacancy rate that plagues the upper storeys of many of Ontario downtown buildings.

And that's not all. Heritage paint schemes, façade restoration, judicious masonry cleaning, restoration of period sash, if the amount of downtown renovation is any indication, Walton Street has a very promising future indeed. Come take a look at the transformation.

Although the downtown appears to be booming, there is some concern about certain recent developments. At least two familiar stores have closed their doors in recent months and more than one shopfront is currently empty. Fueling the controversy is another closing — the local hardware and building supply centre has moved to the edge of town. This has led to speculation about the future of retailing in central Port Hope. But before the doomsayers have the last word, there comes news of more development, namely two condominium projects on vacant land adjacent to downtown. No doubt the new condo-dwellers will aid downtown businesses but there is



TOM CRUICKSHANK

Work on No. 1 Walton (ACORN XIII.2) proceeds with newly rebuilt chimney and parapet. Windows on side elevation are new, but already look like they belong.

debate over whether the developments should include retail shops in their plans. What's more, some wonder about the visual impact of the new buildings on the historical continuity of the town. None of these issues are yet resolved. Stay tuned, an interesting year lies ahead.

Tom Cruickshank



A dramatic before-and-after view of a commercial block on Queen Street. Hidden from view behind hoarding in recent months, new ground floor treatment was worth the wait.



TOM CRUICKSHANK

Toronto Region

EATON AUDITORIUM AND ROUND ROOM

After years of legal wrangling between the City of Toronto and the owner of College Park, it looks like the stalemate is finally at an end. The Executive of City Council has recommended to the full council that:

- *It endorse in principle the restoration of the Seventh Floor at College Park as a music centre.*
- *It request other levels of government to endorse the funding.*
- *Subsequently it establish a community foundation to raise funds for the restoration.*
- *It request that College Park forgo rent for the first five years after the restoration.*
- *It set up a design steering committee once the community foundation has reached the target figure.*

The Toronto Region Architectural Conservancy renews its commitment to bringing the Seventh Floor back to life. Your Executive will be aggressively analyzing the information made available to us to ensure that this most important 1930s interior design space is returned to the cultural life of Toronto.

Alec Keefer

Heritage Cambridge

The Board of Directors held a mini-retreat last June to identify goals and directions for action through the coming months and beyond. Various areas were identified including adopting a more "hands-on" approach to restoration in the hopes of increasing our profile and influence with Cambridge homeowners, lobbying to strengthen heritage concerns in the city Official Plan and working with school classes involved in local history to heighten their awareness of Cambridge's built heritage.

Walking tours of downtown Galt (Cambridge) were again offered to residents and visitors each Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. departing from the Morris Lutz house. These popular tours were conducted from June through September and also added to sales of the Heritage Cambridge publication *Old Galt Walking Tour*.

The future of the Galt Curling Club remains in question. This one and a half storey stone building was home to the oldest curling club in Canada. Built in the 1870s, the Curling Club still boasts original clerestory windows and timber framing although a 1930s addition obscures the entrance side. Cambridge LACAC originally requested that the Curling Club, now unoccupied and owned by the city of Cambridge, be designated but their petition was turned down by council. Heritage Cambridge then joined forces with LACAC to request that the Cambridge Library & Gallery, which had been granted the property for their planned expansion, be required to consider retaining and using the building in their architect's plans. Council agreed and directed architect Gerry Musselman to consider the possibility based on a letter prepared by Heritage Cambridge president Lynda Schneider, Valerie Spring and Tim Drennen outlining the distinguishing architectural features of the Curling Club. At the time of writing a date for a meeting between the Library's architect, Heritage Cambridge and Cambridge LACAC had not been set.

The eagerly awaited "unveiling" of Tim Drennen's restoration of 89 Grand Avenue South took place on Sunday, October 14th. An example of meticulous restoration of an early stone cottage, it is particularly noteworthy also for the original paintings on the ceiling done by a previous nineteenth century inhabitant of the home.

Cathy Blackburn

Brant County

A slide show and social in connection with Brant County Barns was held September 8, 1990, in connection with the Ploughing Match which took place ten days later. A successful yard sale was held in July at the Michael O'Byrne home in Mount Pleasant, where the "Beans and Jeans" event will also be held. Marion Sheridan, the branch president, and Ms. Olive Rush assisted Mr. O'Byrne with the event.

Two areas of Brantford — areas where people established homes with the assurance, as prime tenants of prime city areas, changes were unlikely to take place — were hit in the summer of 1990 by changes or prospective changes.

One of these areas, Oakley Avenue off Ava Road, may still be saved through a caring owner and Advisory Board reports. The home was built at 7 Oakley with an original entrance off Ava Road by the Schultz family, local builders responsible for the Court House addition and schools and public buildings throughout Southern Ontario.

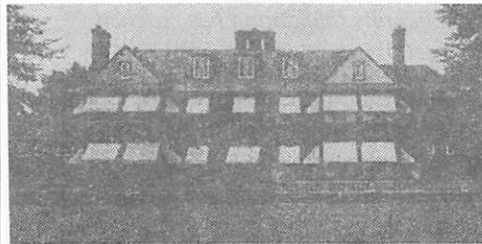
The Dufferin area boasts houses built mainly over a 40-year period from 1870 to 1910. These houses were all built by long-established Brantford families of high repute, with money made in the building, manufacturing and merchandising trades. A number of these families helped to establish Farringdon Church on Mount Pleasant Road.

In my opinion the portion of Dufferin between Jarvis and St. Paul can well claim to be the finest unspoiled streetscape in Ontario. It is bordered at the northwest by an apartment building, and further north the site of a proposed new development. 152 Dufferin was the site of the home of Ontario's first Lieutenant-Governor of the area, Colonel Henry Cockshutt. Sixty-two Dufferin, demolished in August 1990, had been built by the Sweet family in Mid-Victorian times. Both homes had been allowed to fall into disrepair.

When development was first proposed for both areas on Dufferin, in the early 1980s, citizens groups and the local Architectural Conservancy Branch appeared successful in their opposition. The technique of waiting until all seemed secure was followed in the approach to development for these properties. A major defence of the area had been made and backed up by Peter John Stokes, Restoration Architect, and his University of Waterloo students. Dufferin Avenue and Spring Street residents banded together to prevent a condominium being built on Spring Street by Buck Park, with exit to Dufferin Avenue through the former Sweet residence. And now, eight years later, all this effort appears to be for naught.

And now Darling Street from George to Charlotte, another historical area, appears to be threatened, and Mount Pleasant Avenue by the Ring Road . . . and so on and so on. Brantford's special status as a city which cares about its heritage of older buildings (the reason why many of us chose to move here from other centres) is being eroded. Modern development can never take the place of heritage structures, and in our view should proceed in alternate locations. Money for the few at the cultural expense of many is not a fair trade-off. Only the voices of many concerned citizens, heard by owners and planners and by City Council, can stay the trend.

Audrey Scott



Henry Cockshutt House, Dufferin Ave. photo taken in the 1920s

BRANTFORD EXPOSITOR

North Waterloo Region

In January 1990, members of the seven LACACs in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo held a forum on the topic, "Is Architectural Conservancy in Waterloo Region a lost cause?" Moderator of the panel was Jean Haalboom, former chairperson of the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation. LACAC representatives focused on three questions:

- *Should local governments as advised by LACACs continue to designate properties?*
- *What criteria of designation do the LACACs have?*
- *How are LACACs trying to protect historic buildings that are threatened by development?*

The variety of responses provided a profitable evening for branch members and LACAC delegates alike.

The annual celebration of Heritage Week was a dinner at the historic Huether Hotel, 59 King St. North, Waterloo. The management provided a tour of its microbrewery in the fieldstone cavern adjacent to the dining room. Many photographs of the hotel's past and recent restoration, as well as brewery memorabilia, are mounted on fieldstone walls. See ACORN XIV 2 and XIII 2 for restoration and photos.

During Heritage Week, the branch participated in a showcase of cultural history, sponsored by the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, at Fairview Mall, Kitchener. A number of community groups concerned with the preservation and celebration of heritage mounted exhibits of their activities, interests, and offered membership information. Another display was mounted in Heritage

Week in Waterloo Towne Square to display photos and articles about lost and threatened buildings in Waterloo.

In May, branch treasurer John Boulden conducted a tour of Mount Hope Cemetery, Kitchener's oldest active cemetery, with records dating back to the late 1700s. Its present location was established between 1868-1871 with the purchase by the Town of Berlin of 12.25 acres from John Hoffman. Over the next twenty years, a number of graves were transferred from church cemeteries and a small, public cemetery nearby. The City of Kitchener has published a free booklet, *A Walking Tour of Kitchener's Mount Hope Cemetery* (c 1984) available through the Cemeteries Section, Parks and Recreation Department. A brief biography of approximately forty prominent citizens and many illustrations of stones and monuments can assist those who stroll through a central park of local history.

The Annual Meeting in June was a celebration of the branch's tenth anniversary. Present and former members were invited for dinner and programme at Angie's Kitchen, St. Agatha. John Carter, a native of Waterloo Region currently working in Museums Development of the Heritage Branch, Ministry of Culture and Communications, presented slides of homes along the Talbot Trail. From Windsor to Fort Erie, many houses have been maintained, several superbly restored, while others, unfortunately, have disappeared.

Joyce Arndt

CHURCH TOURS

Our branch held a tour of local churches in May.

Church of the Holy Saviour

The Anglican Church of the Holy Saviour was erected in 1897, and until 1919, it was called St. Saviours. The Gothic white brick exterior with a pitched roof housed a nave with a chancel and vestry for a small congregation.

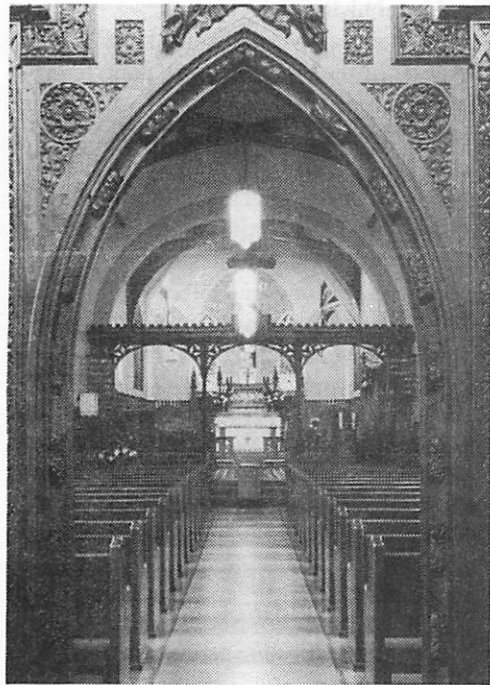
In 1913, a parish hall was built and the interior was remodelled in 1925 with new decorative woodwork. In 1937, the nave was extended, more woodwork was purchased, and a new bell tower with a Saxon influence created a central focus. During the '50s, '60s, and '70s, the parish hall was extended and additional material windows were added to complete the exterior as we know it today.



Church of the Holy Saviour
Allen St. E., Waterloo

The ornate and decorative woodwork throughout the church was manufactured at the Globe Furniture Company founded in 1889 in the heart of Waterloo, where it continued to operate until the 1950s. The Globe made church and school furniture and sold it to countless churches and schools throughout Ontario and other provinces. Much of the school furniture no longer exists, but the church wood carvings and fixtures are still in evidence today, especially in the Church of The Holy Saviour at 33 Allen St. E. in Waterloo.

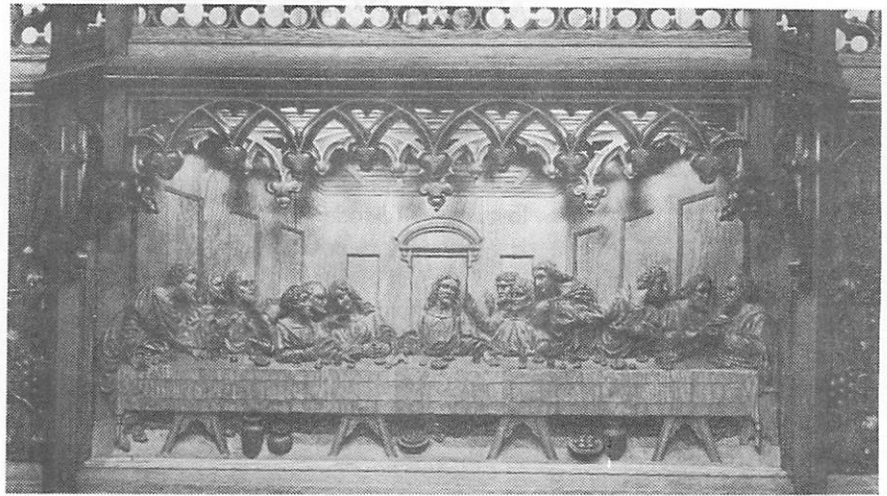
Recently, the City purchased the Globe building and leased space to local artists and craftsmen. However, due to plans for a new arena and swimming pool, the future of the Globe became uncertain. During August of this year, the City made the decision to retain the Globe for future use. Because ACO has been concerned with the Globe's future and we were eager to see the numerous carved objects manufactured at the Globe, our path led to The Church of The Holy Saviour.



Church of the Holy Saviour
Interior woodcarving by Globe Furniture Company

Paul Cornell, archivist for the church, conducted the tour and pointed out its interior highlights. Immediately upon entering the narthex, a carved oak screen rises to a height of eighteen feet. Its overall design incorporates flowers, grapes, leaves, acorns, with a figure of Christ over a Gothic archway leading into the nave. The panelled wood wainscoting lining both sides of the nave, combined with mellow oak pews, create a warm, intimate worship area. The last two pews at the front are topped with a carving of a person in prayer.

Another highlight is a lectern decorated with the figure of an angel. A carved wood screen separating the chancel from the nave



Church of the Holy Saviour
"The Last Supper". Woodcarving by
Globe Furniture Company.

houses the choir stalls and the organ. The final portion of the church is the sanctuary, centered with an ornate panel depicting The Last Supper. Directly above are three stained glass windows installed in 1927.

Wall paintings on both sides of the sanctuary depict biblical events. Since neither of the paintings are signed, and to date all attempts to discover the artist have failed, Mr. Cornell feels that they could have been painted by a "travelling" artist.

St. Louis Roman Catholic Church

The history of St. Louis Roman Catholic Church began when a few members of St. Mary's Church in Berlin (Kitchener), met upstairs in the Weichel Block on King Street, to worship and to plan for a church of their own in Waterloo.

In 1890, the corner-stone was laid for St. Louis Church on Allen Street East in Waterloo. It was dedicated in 1891, decorated in 1900 and two bells were installed in 1903.

Built of yellow brick on a man made hill, the church could be seen by all residents in the surrounding area. Major renovations took place in 1900, 1914 and 1960.

Father C. A. Hauser has attended this parish since 1927 and has been the pastor at St. Louis for fifteen years. He conducted the tour and began with the latest addition, the narthex, built in 1961. Doors, windows and bricks from St. John's Lutheran Church, that had been destroyed by fire, were used for this addition. To celebrate St. Louis' 100th anniversary, the interior has been painted and cleaned extensively and it appears as a bright, spacious house of worship. The ten memorial stained glass windows that line the nave are interspersed with the Stations of the Cross. The extensive renovations that took place in 1914 include two wings at each side of the church, two carved confessionals, pews and altars — all purchased



St. Louis Roman Catholic Church interior

from the Globe Furniture Company — and a new sanctuary. Presently, the sanctuary displays an ornate wood carved screen with Christ as its main figure. The sanctuary stained glass windows symbolizing the four Evangelists are enclosed in triangular openings bordered with trompe l'oeil painted scrollwork.

Two large circular stained glass windows with floral and geometric patterns at either side of the sanctuary reflect the Art Nouveau influence so popular during this time.

Pillars rise from the front, upper walls, painted in faux marble design. When the church was redecorated in 1961-62, an Italian artist was hired to paint biblical scenes on the ceiling. Besides their artistic merit, they create an optical illusion. Regardless of where the viewer is standing, they appear totally in line and balance.



St. Louis Roman Catholic Church
Allen St. E., Waterloo

In 1965, a new organ was purchased, the third since St. Louis had been built. Directly behind it two more stained glass windows were added.

Over the past year, various events within the parish have celebrated St. Louis' 100th anniversary and several members have compiled a book to recall St. Louis' milestones and the efforts of its members.

Marg Zavaros

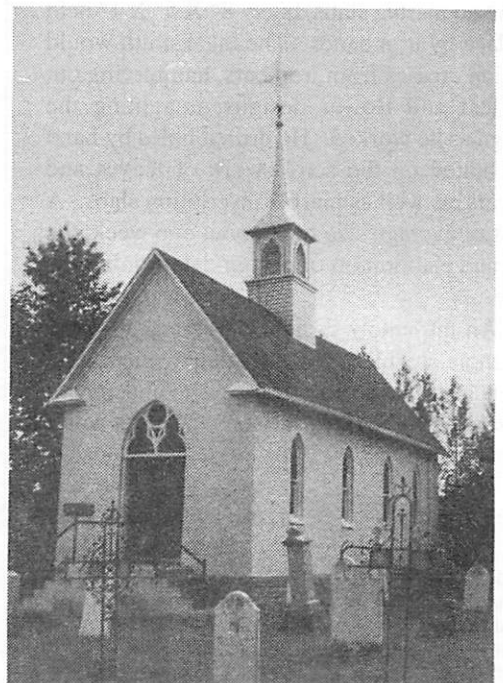
St. Agatha Roman Catholic Church

St. Agatha Roman Catholic parish recently marked the centennial of its church, built in 1889. To prepare for celebrations, the parish began extensive restoration work a decade ago, first with the reshingling of the roof and steeple. About eight years ago, the interior was refurbished: walls were painted, wooden trim was restored, and oak pews were cleaned. Handpainted stencilling graces the arch separating nave from chancel. Wallcovering in a foliage motif of gold and bronze surrounds the altar area and extends in a horizontal band around the sanctuary. Over the altar is a wood sculpture of the Resurrection carved by artisan E. Klaas of Rockton. Twelve stained glass memorial windows, interspersed with Stations of the Cross, enhance the interior of the church. Some original windows are painted to provide the effects of leaded, stained glass.

Today St. Agatha Roman Catholic parish includes about 350 families in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships, with some from the west side suburbs of Kitchener and Waterloo. Our tour guide, Father Gene Tyson, has served the parish for six years.

St. Agatha Cemetery Chapel

One of Father Eugene Funcken's duties on arrival was to arrange better burial facilities for the settlers of the parish. For twenty-five years, the Jesuits had conducted burials in the hillside cemetery diagonally opposite the church. Father Funcken had the cemetery enclosed with a concrete wall on which were mounted Stations of the Cross; he then had built a little Gothic chapel, which, in the years



Shrine of the Sorrowful Mother in St. Agatha Cemetery, dating to the late 1850s

JOYCE ARNDT

following, attracted pilgrims from all the settlements nearby, including the county seat of Berlin. In the 1920s, Father John Fehrenbach supervised the expansion of the chapel to its present size and waterproofed it with a stuccoed exterior. Interior renovations included new pews, a new white altar and altar railing. Additional statuary were placed near the Sorrowful Mother over the altar. Father Fehrenbach obtained from Munich, Germany, thirty-four copies of original religious art to mount on the walls and arched ceiling. Remarkably, these unprotected pictures have survived extremes of temperature in winter and summer over the years. In the past year, the chapel has been freshly painted, and new steps have been mounted at the front door. The chapel lacks electricity and heat in winter, but is useable, nonetheless. Visitors will find the Shrine of the Sorrowful Mother open on Sundays in summer. Balance of design, simplicity of structure, and solitude of the hilltop render the chapel a place of reverence and reminiscence.

Ironwork Crosses

Around the chapel are grave markers from the nineteenth century, both in stone and wrought iron. The ornamental iron crosses found in Roman Catholic cemeteries of St. Agatha, Maryhill and St. Clement's correspond with the arrival of German Alsations to Wilmot and Wellesley Townships. A number of immigrants were blacksmiths whose skill, artistry and workmanship created various designs from delicate tracery to heavy, geometric patterns.

The foreground of the photo shows two iron crosses of varying ornamentation, each with two marble slabs, likely 8" X 5" X 1" held in place by iron bands. The blacksmith would fashion crosses from iron bars, hammering out the leaf and flower designs, imagining the design as he worked. He drilled holes by hand and bolted on the scroll work of leaves and flowers, as well as marble inscription slabs. A cross of average size took about one week, the size and elaboration of design determining the price.

An intricately designed iron cross adorns the short steeple of the chapel, while a tall, ornate iron cross crowns the prominent spire of the church to beckon parishioners from miles around.

Joyce Arndt

Acknowledgements: Articles from *Kitchener-Waterloo Record*, Grace Schmidt Room of Local History, Kitchener Public Library. Coumans, Camilla C. *Ornamental Iron Grave Markers*. Waterloo History Society. 49 (1962): 72-75.



St. Clement's Church interior

St. Clement's Church

Most of the early settlers of the St. Clement's area, near the City of Waterloo, came from Alsace-Lorraine, Germany and Bavaria in the 1830s. They were mostly Catholic.

In 1852, Father Messner became the first resident priest. Prior to this time the parish was served by missionary priests. A log church constructed in 1840 was getting too small and plans were made in 1853 to replace it with the present brick church completed in 1858. The church cost \$10,000. The brick walls were approximately six bricks thick. It had a tall steeple, four large Italianate windows on each side and a five sided sanctuary with an iron cross on the roof. In 1960, Father Harry Brick had the steeple removed because it was considered a safety hazard. The interior of the church was also cleaned and new lights were installed. Members of our tour thought the interior was very beautiful and found the exterior red brick a most pleasing colour.

We are grateful to Father Ryan for showing us the church and Patty White for the historical information.

Marg Rowell



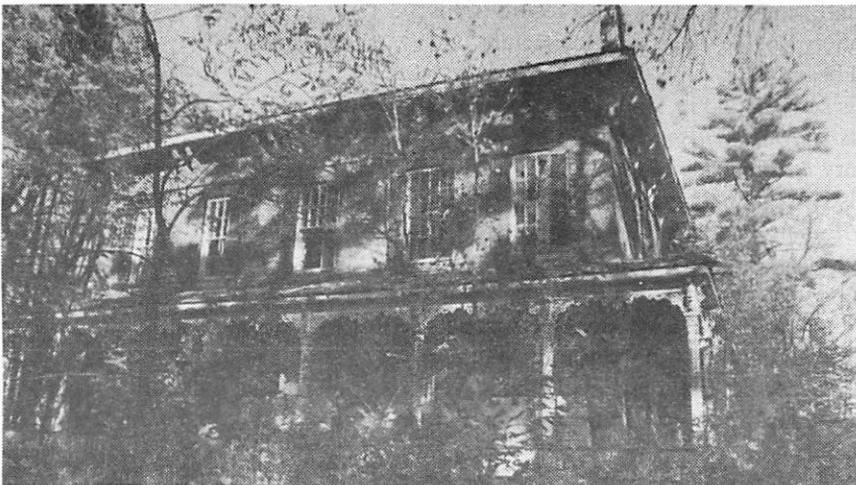
St. Clement's Church

Oxford County

HISTORY GOES UP IN SMOKE

On Saturday, May 26, 1990, I watched history go up in smoke. This date will long be remembered in Embro as the night the Sutherland mansion burned.

The home of Dr. D. M. Sutherland stood on a hill in the north end of the Embro village for 136 years. It was built by Donald Matheson in 1854, who was Embro's first postmaster and West Zorras' first Reeve. Matheson also served as the Warden for the County of Oxford for five years during which the handsome Oxford County Gaol was built, and as a member of the Ontario Legislature. After his death, the home was inherited by Dr. Donald M. Sutherland, a grandson of the builder. Dr. Sutherland was educated in Norwich and Woodstock. At the age of eighteen, Sutherland joined the militia forces under Lt. Col. McMullen and later fought in the 1st Battalion of the 1st Canadian Division during World War I. Dr. Sutherland returned to Canada after being wounded in battle, received the rank of Lt. Colonel, and the responsibility to raise the 71st Battalion from the Counties of Oxford, Perth, Waterloo, Wellington, Huron and Bruce. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) for his work during World War I. Following the war, Dr. Sutherland became the Federal Member of Parliament for Oxford and Minister of National Defence in the R. B. Bennett administration from 1930-1934 and Minister of Pensions and National Health from 1934-35. Locally, Dr. Sutherland was the founder and first President of the Woodstock Rotary Club in 1924. He also helped to form Branch #55 of the Royal Canadian Legion and served as their first President in 1926 and 1927. After graduating from the University of Toronto in 1903 with a degree in Medicine, he began a medical practice in Princeton and Woodstock.



Matheson House, Embro

The Sutherland mansion was an elegant two-storey regency style house with a porch on three sides and heavy ornamental brackets twinned under a wide eave. After Dr. Sutherland died, the house and contents were auctioned off at a highly publicized and well attended auction on Saturday, August 29, 1970. The grand home was lived in for a few years after it was sold, and then left. It has been empty for at least the past ten years, neglected and deteriorating 'til the fire on May 26, 1990.

Today the Sutherland mansion has been reduced to a pile of fire blackened bricks, heaped like the tumbled tombstones in a neglected graveyard, just a disfigured marker hinting at a grand home and a grand lifestyle. But once it was this, and I quote Maurice Hackman from a newspaper article he wrote in 1954, "Slim, white columns support a handsome verandah at the front and sides: reminiscent of Spanish moss on a Virginian mansion or ivy on an Italian monastery. Flowers and vines trail from the eaves of a frame cloister that forms the rear entrance. Approach it from any direction and you will pass among tall pines, stout maples of spreading cedars. Look up any of its trim, gravel driveways and you see the house — the picture of timeless elegance.

The house is the show place of Embro. Set in the midst of four wooded acres, it was built in 1854 by the Scottish grandfather of Dr. Donald M. Sutherland. Dr. Sutherland, who retired from his general medical practice in Woodstock in 1935, spends his days among huge rooms filled with comfortable, old furniture.

The five large fireplaces bear the stamp of the maker: H. P. Brown, Woodstock, C.W. . ."

Every time I think of the fire on May 26th, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of loss. I am also filled with questions. How could such a historic and beautiful building come to such a demise? What profit was in the decision to leave it neglected and slowly deteriorating until it was claimed by fire? Before the fire, and in a rundown condition, it was still a valuable property, now it is not.

My fruitless questions lead me to believe that our heritage laws are not tough enough. The Sutherland home was easily worthy of local and national designation, both for its architectural significance and for its historical importance. Owners of all property, particularly in urban areas, are bound by laws of maintenance and conduct. Owners of heritage properties have an additional moral and ethical responsibility to maintain those properties and preserve the unique heritage elements of their

homes and grounds. Usually, this responsibility is a joy, not a burden, as you become fascinated by the building's history and the history of building techniques. But an ethical or moral obligation is not nearly enough. Designated properties as well as properties worthy of designation need stronger protection from demolition and/or neglect.

Our past is our future, but I am at pains to suggest what is left of the Matheson/Sutherland legacy for our future.

Sheila Johnson

OXFORD AND MEECH LAKE CARBIDE WILLSON

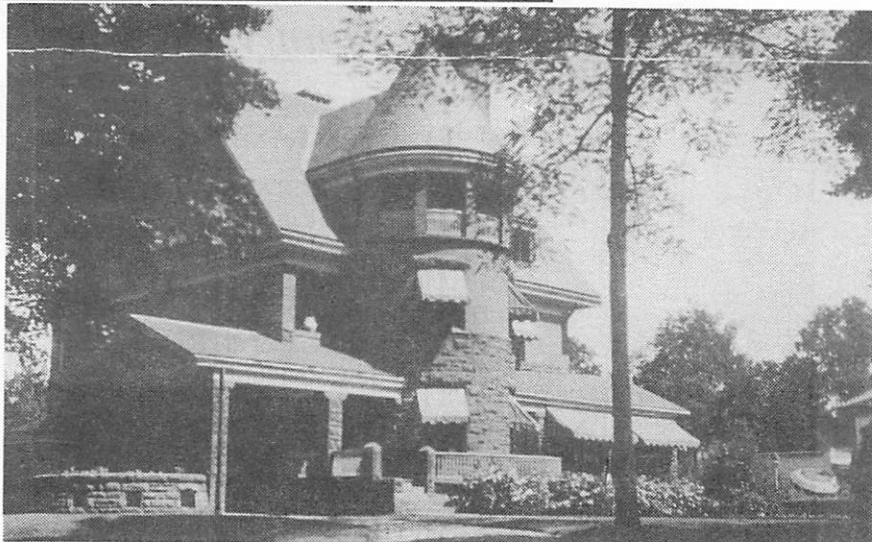
Every Canadian knows about Meech Lake and the demise of the Accord in June. But do you know that the failed Accord originated in what was once the summer home of Oxford's Thomas L. (Carbide) Willson?

It was one of three beautiful homes owned by this enterprising and prolific inventor whose fame and fortune came with the commercial production of calcium carbide, which gave off acetylene gas with its powerful and unique lighting and cutting properties. This was only one of his many inventions, including everything from electric arc lighting and navigational equipment to nitrogen based fertilizer. In his 55 years he patented over 60 inventions.

Carbide Willson made a fortune out of his patents derived from his keen inventive genius. In 1895 he built his first large and handsome home on tree-lined Vansittart Avenue in Woodstock. His birth place was near Princeton, about twelve miles east, and the salt-box style farm house still stands. His grandfather, the Hon. John Willson, was a United Empire Loyalist who was a member of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada for 26 years. He was Speaker of the House and was considered the "Father of the Common Schools Act".

The brick and stone Queen Anne style mansion with its impressive porte-cochere and front entrance and circular verandah is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. It is today in as fine a condition as when built at the exorbitant cost of \$90,000. Today's owners have furnished it richly and wisely, just as Willson did almost 100 years ago.

At the peak of his success Carbide Willson took the advice of his Woodstock friend and financial advisor, the Rt. Hon. James Sutherland, a minister in Laurier's Cabinet. He moved to Ottawa where so many financial decisions were made. In 1902 he bought an impressive house at 188 Metcalfe Street where he and his family met with influential politicians and investors. At the peak of his



Thomas "Carbide" Willson House

success he sold his patents which led to the formation of the present day U.S. industrial giant, Union Carbide.

His stately country home at Meech Lake, used as a retreat and a place for quiet contemplation, was a Tudor style mansion. It was built in 1907 on about 200 hectares of beautiful wooded land with streams, hills and overlooking the lake with the name that became famous.

This entire Meech Lake estate is now federal government property and is used as a meeting place, chiefly for high level government conferences.

The principal building on the grounds is Willson House. It is a monument to his work, his wealth and his way of life. After his death in 1915 the estate remained in the family until 1923. It later became a summer retreat for two Ottawa families. In 1979 the National Capital Commission purchased it and after some restoration now uses it as a small conference centre.

The Oxford connection is still this unrecognized but brilliant, entrepreneurial inventor, scientist Thomas L. Willson. Born in Oxford County, he built the finest house and gardens in Woodstock and left a legacy at Meech Lake in the Gatineau Hills. His three excellently crafted homes were a record of his admiration for the finest in architecture and natural beauty.

His story is told in *The Canadians Series, Thomas Carbide Willson* by Carole Precious. Fitzhenry & Whiteside Limited 1980.

Also in Union Carbide's biography, *Carbide Willson* by Malcolm Greenhalgh, 1976. It can be obtained from Union Carbide Canada Limited, Public Information Services.

Although Carbide Willson's inventions have been so important to industrial manufacturing process, he has remained a relatively unknown figure, even here in his own birthplace.

Edwin Bennett

London Region

A "STROLL AROUND ST. JAMES"

St. James Street, the focus of last June's walking tour, lies one block north of the major thoroughfare Oxford Street, in an area plugged by real estate ads as the Old North. This part of the city is indeed very old: the "New Survey" of the 1830s showed roads and lots as far



NANCY TALISKY

Detail, 816 Talbot Street

north as Huron Street, but they remained little more than lines on a map until the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Most earlier buildings fell into one of three categories: houses associated with large country villas, mainly along Richmond Street and the river; farmhouses and outbuildings; or institutions.



NANCY TALISKY

149 St. James Street

By 1875 the area just north of St. James Street and within the five blocks east of the Thames contained the grounds of Huron College, Hellmuth Boys' College, St. George's School, a Methodist Chapel, and the Mount Hope Orphanage. The 1880s saw the Western University (which became the University of Western Ontario) and the Church of St. John the Evangelist established on the Boys' School grounds, and St. Joseph's Hospital situated just a block north. Part of the reason for the institutional density of the area lay in its slightly elevated position: the "Mount Pleasant" air was deemed particularly healthy. In 1900 the congregation of St. James Presbyterian Church moved to a monumental new building on the north side of Oxford Street. The institutional aspect of the St. James neighbourhood was represented on the walk by two very handsome churches: the Gothic Revival Church of St. John the Evangelist, designed in 1888 by Charles Cox, and the Romanesque Revival St. James Presbyterian Church, built to plans drawn by W. G. Murray.

That the two large churches were established there in itself indicates the residential growth of the St. James area during the last part of the century, and the relatively homogeneous architectural character of its streetscapes formed a main attraction of the tour. The earliest house on the tour was probably the cottage at 816 Talbot Street, but while corner pilasters, the plain broad cornice, and the outlines of pedimented window surrounds hint at an earlier date, the cottage seems to have been moved to its present location and decked out in a new ornamentation in 1886. The fine Eastlake door and the architrave with its intriguing bamboo-style moulding date from this period. The Ontario cottage at 149 St. James St. was built in 1881; it proved notable, not only for its historical attractiveness, but also for the very sympathetic addition then underway.

The tour also featured some more substantial houses from the 1880s: the Queen Anne buildings at 785 and 773 Wellington Street and 326 St. James Street. The latter two houses formed an especially interesting comparison because a number of similar details (e.g., the open panels on the interior stairways, the robustly sculptured sunbursts that appear frequently as exterior decorative motifs, and the numerous chiselled brick courses) suggested that they were the work of the same builder. The very abundance and variety of the decorative details on the St. James St. house make it particularly striking. Both the primary gables and the secondary gable at the peak of the roof feature finely ornamented

bargeboards and embossed designed; the larger gables also display shingles cut into a variety of unusually intricate patterns. The brackets that effect a transition between the straight line of the gable base and the angled windows of the bar are dominated by the omnipresent sunburst design. Chiselled brick and moulded cement blocks are used to create decorative window arches and panels; grooves and corbelling produce a strongly sculptured chimney and chimneyhead. Unfortunately, the original porch, which wound around the western corner of the building, has been removed; if it featured the impressive bulbous designs still to be seen on the Wellington Street house, the porch would have formed a dramatic addition to the facade. It is also regrettable that the recently added solarium obscures what is likely the most impressive among the city's many keyhole windows.



326 St. James Street

Among the most interesting houses on the tour were three of the newest. The Belton house at 834 Richmond Street was designed by J. M. Moore's architectural firm in 1814; its prominent red tile roof and stucco wall finish show the influence of contemporary Spanish Colonial buildings, though the insistently horizontal lines and extraordinarily broad eaves, like the Arts and Crafts details of the interior, link it more closely with the Prairie style. 260 Sydenham Street, designed by William Murry for John Lindsay in 1928, is a very handsome Neoclassical Revival house, with such thoughtful interior details as inverted tray ceilings and mantel columns that echo the Corinthian columns of the exterior portico. The house O. Roy Moore, who inherited his father's firm, designed for himself at 189 College Avenue is a fascinating architectural tour de force, playing with various stylistic ideas and materials to achieve an effect that is almost postmodern in its experimental freedom. He adopts as his basic form that of the Ontario



773 Wellington Street

cottage which was already well represented on the street, though the rug brick and stone quoins give it an appearance consistent with its 1931 date. The classical detail of the facade is extended to the main interior rooms, but as one moves towards the bedrooms and kitchen, the wooden mouldings give way to industrial metals. The basement, which forms the ground level at the rear, features a small ballroom in a Spanish mode, with rough plaster walls, rather course terra cotta mouldings in a rope and leaf design, a fountain, and a terrazzo floor. Completing the survey of styles is the stained glass window, with touches reminiscent of its medieval ancestors, which overlooks the back yard.

Though still an area of prosperous and stable residential neighbourhoods, the western end of St. James Street and its environs are in a surprisingly vulnerable situation. To the south is Oxford Street, a main arterial road; to the north, Dodge Park and the now very large St. Joseph's Health Centre cut off the rest of the Old North. The institutional presence that has always characterized the neighbourhood poses a threat because of parking and expansion pressures. This year's walk served a valuable function, not only in illuminating an interesting part of the city's architecture, but also in emphasizing the importance of its preservation. The walk committee deserves a hearty thanks: Howard Pulver acted as co-ordinator for the tour; among those who provided very able help were Julia Beck, Anne McKillop, and Michael Baker. A special thanks must also be extended to Gloria Hinton, who arranged an excellent Victorian cream tea.



834 Richmond Street

NANCY TAUSKY

1990-91 PROGRAM

Because the walking tour is always so popular and informative, it was decided to substitute a tour of West London (exteriors only) on September 27 for the October meeting. Other scheduled meetings are as follows:

Tuesday, November 6

Central Library Auditorium, 8:00

Marc Gladysz, London Heritage Planner, will show the video London's Top 100 Buildings and discuss plans for designating them.

Tuesday, December 4

Central Library Auditorium, 8:00

Annual Meeting, installation of new officers, and discussion of future plans.

Tuesday, February 19

Middlesex County Building, 8:00

"Buildings Lost and Saved." Joint meeting with London and Middlesex Historical Society.

Old and new members are warmly invited to attend.

Nancy Tausky



260 Sydenham Street

NANCY TAUSKY



189 College Avenue

NANCY TAUSKY

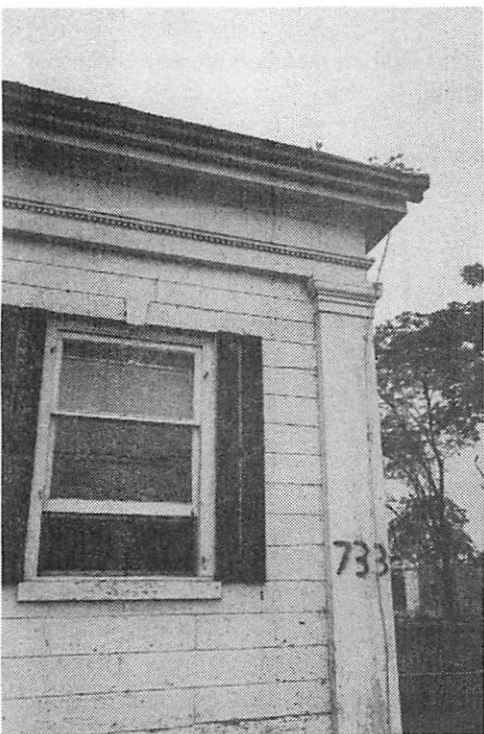
Advisory Board

Aylmer

In early August, Laura Benson, manager of the Wallaceburg Museum, contacted the Advisory Board about a small Neoclassical house on Highway 3, just west of Aylmer. This 5-bay house has several interesting and unusual features: the boards on all four sides were grooved to resemble ashlar and, even more interesting, the boards in the horizontal window headings are arranged to suggest keystones and voussoirs. Until this summer, the house had survived almost unaltered but in the last few months, after a fire in the second storey, the tail was removed and burnt and the main part of the house was moved to a site east of Aylmer.

The final chapters in the life of this charming and important house are still to be written. We will keep you informed.

Julia Beck



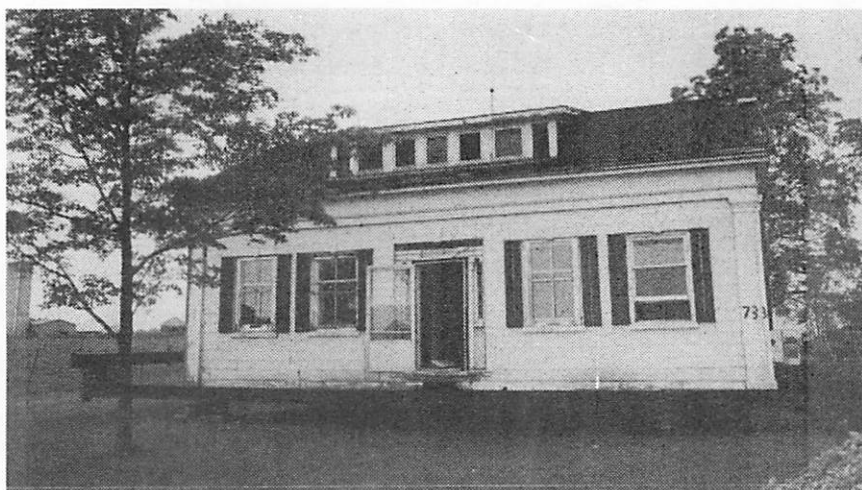
Exterior detail of house near Aylmer

Ajax

Ken Rawson is preparing a report on the Hartrick House for the Ajax LACAC. This 1850 1 1/2 storey frame house located north of Highway 2 is threatened with development.

Jackson's Point

A group has formed because of concern that the government has decided to close the historic house known as Eildon Hall. Donna Baker is attending the meetings as a representative of the ACO.



House near Aylmer

Wingham

Chris Borgal is preparing a report on the Wingham CNR Station at the request of the Wingham LACAC.

Cobourg

In late August we were asked by A. K. Sculthorpe to inspect Mallory House for the owners. We met Mr. and Mrs. MacLean on September 2 at the house and have prepared a preliminary report. We are asking Peter John Stokes to review our report and to advise on our findings. The MacLeans are undertaking to restore and to live in this very original house dating from about 1810.

Athens

The municipality has asked us to inspect the town hall. They intend to designate and to restore the entire building which contains municipal offices and police on the ground floor and a large hall with stage and balcony above. This request was received September 6, and has not been assigned.

Bigwin Island

Peter Goering contacted the Advisory Board in September regarding Bigwin Inn and Island. This has recently been sold and the historic buildings of the Inn, which have been abandoned for some time, are threatened by lack of maintenance and possible redevelopment. A local committee has been formed and their immediate concern is to obtain a structural engineer's report on the buildings.

Mr. Goering found that many of the original architects' drawings for the Inn are in the hands of Collingwood architect, Bill Carswell. They were done by Collingwood architect John Wilson who did many local buildings including Britania Hotel.

William Moffet

MALLORY HOUSE

Introduction

Mallory House is located at Highway 2 and McEwan Road between Cobourg and Grafton in Hamilton Township. We were requested by the owners, Lauren and Bruce MacLean of Cobourg, to examine the house and to advise them on its age and architectural value, and to assist them in preparing for its restoration.

The house has never had central heating installed. Electrical service and plumbing have been installed. The fireplaces had been abandoned and an iron stove had been placed in front of the southwest main floor room and a pipe run up through the floor and into the central chimney. The actual brick fireplaces still exist but wood surround and mantle have been removed. Fireplaces on the upper level have been bricked up.

The original fireplaces had recently been torn out and sold. Fortunately, a local dealer had obtained these and was holding them in the hope that the house would be bought by a sympathetic person(s) who would restore the fireplace.

The building is reputed to have been an Inn on the old Toronto-Kingston Highway. This is not borne out by the internal layout but may explain its rather large size. It is also reputed to have had a porch across the entire south facing front.

Architectural Context

Architecturally, the building appears to be a remarkably original structure in "Wilderness Georgian" style dating from the early 1800s. The basic building form, central chimney with multiple fireplaces, and much original wood trim indicate a date between 1795 and 1810.

Urban Context

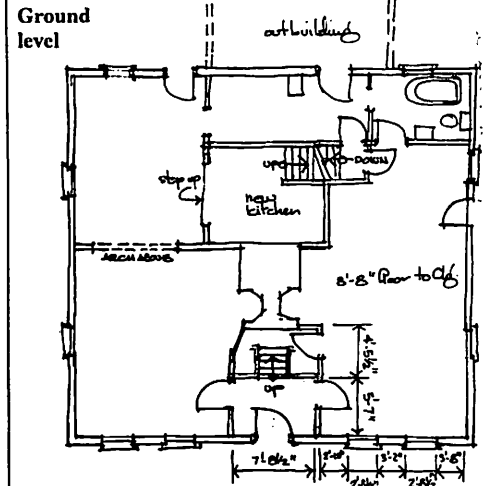
The building sits well above the highway and faces directly onto it. Little evidence of the original landscaping can be discerned and the front entrance has obviously been rarely used in recent years.

The rear wing appears to be a later addition and was not inspected in detail. It appears to be a storage area rather than a summer kitchen.

The remainder of the site is nondescript with no evidence of fruit trees or vegetable garden.

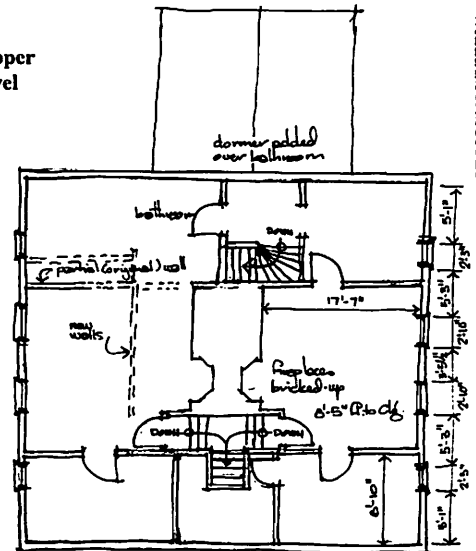
Technical Evaluation

The floor layouts have been much altered at the rear on the ground floor but is almost entirely original on the upper floor. On the ground floor the centre hall gives access to a steep stair to the upper floor and a door to the left and right opening into large rooms, each with a fireplace and almost certainly serving



Mallory House (reduced by 47%) scale 1/8" = 1' 0"

Upper level



Mallory House (reduced by 47%) scale 1/8" = 1' 0"

as drawing room and dining room. Across the rear, there appear to have been 3 rooms with a large kitchen pantry with baking oven in the central fireplace (now concealed by "modern" kitchen). From the pantry a steep service stair with extremely narrow winders leads to the upper level. There may have been a rear bedroom in the northeast corner.

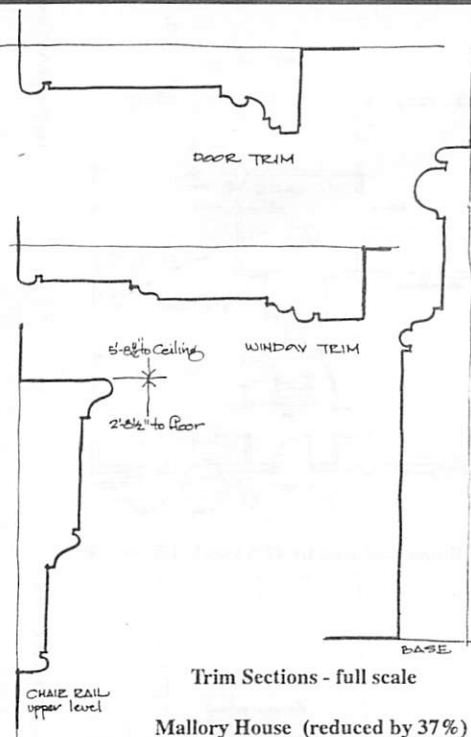
The front stair splits to give access to two large identical bedrooms, each with a smaller room to front and rear. The larger rooms have two windows, the smaller rooms each have 1 smaller window. Despite the height of the front and rear walls, there are no windows on the upper level, all windows being concentrated in gable walls.

The basement has no divisions and the entire original structure can clearly be seen. Two 12" X 10" beams run from front to back. The joists, at roughly 36" centres, are rough-sawn 3" X 6" timbers set into slots in the adze shaped 12" X 10" beams.

The basement walls are rubble stone walls. These are in reasonable condition except for east wall where modern concrete has been poured.

WILLIAM J. MOFFET

WILLIAM J. MOFFET



Mallory House (reduced by 37%)

The central brick chimney is severely cracked and the entire structure has been underpinned with a poured concrete foundation. This extends beyond the fireplace and supports round timber posts which are wedged under the 12" X 10" beams.

The ground floor retains most of its original spatial layout but most of the baseboard, all chair rails, and some doors have been lost. The entrance door and transom, including lock and all of the window trim, appear to be original (except sills). The windows have all been replaced with four light double hung windows, probably from the late 1890s. The central fireplaces have been sadly stripped in the parlour and dining room and entirely blocked off in kitchen. All of the stairs appear to be original.

The upper floor contains much original material. Flooring, baseboards, chair rails, door and window trim and all doors appear to be original. On one door, a piece of the original door hinge can be seen on the jamb. The door hardware, other than butts, is largely original. The short, simple baluster at the top of the rear stair is almost certainly original and well worth preserving.

We did not examine the roof closely but a visual inspection through a roof hatch over rear stair showed central chimney in reasonable condition, rafters of similar size and spacing to main floor joists and wide — 12" to 30" — roof boards. All appeared in reasonable condition.

On the exterior, the original stud and clapboard walls have been covered with narrow clapboard on south side, wide clapboard on north side, and insul-brick on remainder. Where this has fallen away, weathered clapboard can be seen.

On the gable ends, the original Georgian trim still exists but it has been chopped off at the soffits and the guttering and fascia boards are entirely missing. Window trim is largely missing. Extensive work will be required to restore exterior appearance. Siding, corner trim, window and door trim, roof trim all must be added or replaced and chimney and flashings must be restored.

Conclusion

This is a surprisingly original house dating from circa 1800 with much original material in situ, making a comprehensive restoration highly feasible.

Extensive work will be required to consolidate foundations and to restore the interesting central chimney and the 5 fireplaces involved.

Initial investigation should concentrate on the structure

- foundation walls
- check all beams and joists for rot (these have not suffered the usual damage by plumbers and electricians)
- check exterior walls to determine if wall plates are sound and, if possible, introduce damp course
- check roof joists and boards and install new roofing and flashings

Care should be taken to introduce insulation into walls with vapour barrier carefully located and sealed. Attic should be insulated at ceiling and attic space ventilated by means of existing openings in gable ends.

In our opinion, little of the interior plaster can be saved. Much of this is the original plaster on rough wood lath and should be carefully assessed for deterioration before retaining it.

Finally, a sympathetic landscape plan should be developed to emphasize the main elevation and entrance.

William J. Moffet



Mallory House, south elevation

Fairfield-Gutzeit Historic Sites Update

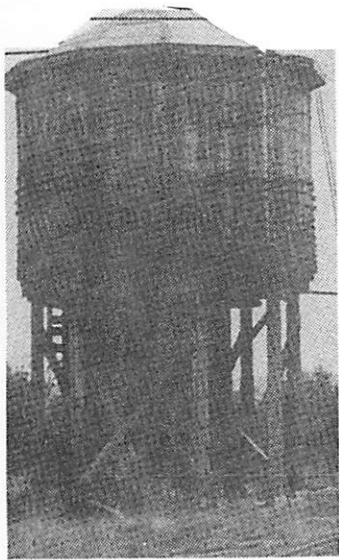
The Fairfield-Gutzeit Sites, closed earlier in the year for economic reasons, were opened again to the public later in the summer, due to the efforts of dedicated, interested people. Headed by Isobel Trumpour, chair of the Kingston Historical Society, a group of about 25 volunteer women acted as guides at the Fairfield House after a week's Training at Fort Henry.

The St. Lawrence Parks Commission, responsible for the earlier closure, negotiated with Ernestown Township for the upkeep of the Fairfield House Park for the remainder of the summer, and with the Village of Bath for the operation and maintenance of the historic Gutzeit House on the Main Street of the village. It was heartening to drive past Fairfield House and see the picnic tables that had been stacked at one side of the park, properly disposed in the grounds again, a sign that things were looking more hopeful for both houses.

Friends of Fairfield have now formed the Fairfield Homestead Heritage Association. We are all urged to become Friends by sending in \$5.00 membership fees to:
Diane MacKinnon, Membership Secretary
R.R. #2 Bath, Ontario K0H 1G0

Lily Inglis

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN



Tower at Barry's Bay

Around & About Ontario and New York State

Barry's Bay

An historic water tower will have to be demolished if money can't be found to restore it. The 18 metre tower was originally used to fill steam engines travelling the CN rail line. It was built in 1945 and is the only one of its kind in Canada. While there are a total of eight wooden water towers in the country, the one in Barry's Bay is the only remaining round structure on open supports.

Heart Island

Boldt Castle, on Heart Island in the 1000 Islands, is to receive a \$1.4 million (US) upgrading. The Thousand Islands Bridge Authority is planning to install new roof tiles, rebuild a sea wall, renovate one of the towers and continue preservation of the main floor. The castle was built between 1900 and 1904 and was 90 per cent complete when millionaire George Boldt abandoned the work when his wife died. Last year 175,000 people visited the castle — 35 per cent were Canadian.

ORILLIA PACKET AND TIMES



The Rectory

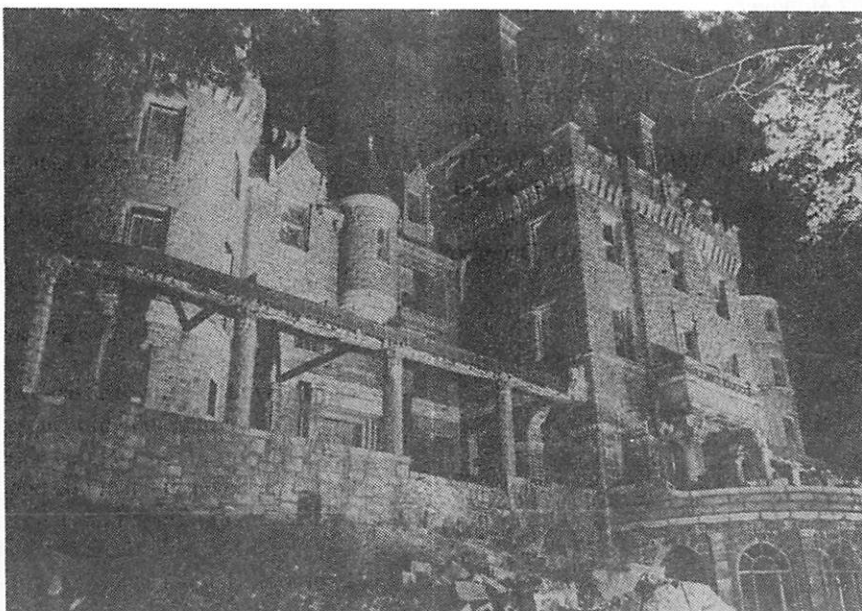
Orillia

The LAÇAC in Orillia has recommended that the house at 57. Neywash Street, the former residence of Canon Richard Green, be designated. Those of you who have read Stephen Leacock's *Sunshine Sketches* will recall it as the "little brick house with odd angles". On the "little grass lawn you may see Rural Dean Drone sitting in the chequered light of the plum trees".

Petrolia

You may recall in the last issue of ACORN that a citizen's committee in Petrolia had asked council to demolish the shell of the burned out Victoria Hall. We are delighted to report that the town council has voted to spend \$5.7 million to rebuild it. The town will get \$3.5 million from its fire insurance and plans to raise the remaining \$2.2 million.

PETER J. KLOPP/THOUSAND ISLANDS INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL



Boldt Castle, Heart Island

Skinner/Jackson House Camden East

When the ACO acquired the Skinner/Jackson House for the purpose of restoration/renovation, the dwelling had suffered not only the normal ravages of time, but the more severe consequences of fire and explosion. The fire, which originated in the propane fired furnace, caused extensive damage in one corner of the main house, and lesser damage throughout; the subsequent explosion literally lifted the roof off the kitchen wing, whereupon it settled back into position, albeit badly distorted. The report prepared by Peter Stokes (January 5, 1988) further details the design features of the house and outlines the fire/explosion damage.

Before work could begin on repair of the building, the weakened structure had to be stabilized with shoring, and smoke and fire damaged debris removed. As well, interior finishes were removed to permit detailed examination and determination of the extent of the damage. Once that was done the structural timbers were either replaced with new (salvaged from a barn), or reinforced, as necessary.

In the main house, where much of the original woodwork, doors and hardware could be retained, damaged materials were replaced with new material, carefully selected or specially milled to match existing pine floor boards, interior woodwork. In the kitchen wing, where damage was more extensive, and where some adaptation was required because of plan changes, a new joist system was constructed for the kitchen ceiling, and new sub-floors were installed. New pole rafters and rough-sawn boards, which match the original (and which remain exposed), were used in replacing the roof of the kitchen wing, however. Repair of the fire and explosion damage proved to be a long, drawn-out procedure, and in the end resulted in costs which were much higher than those usually associated with restoration projects.

The efforts of the ACO have effectively restored the original charm of the house, both interior and exterior, and following the intent of the Peter Stokes report, have resulted in a flexible and commodious room arrangement. In the main house, which has a full basement, the original floor plan has been retained, and comprises two rooms on the first floor, which could be used as living room and dining room, or alternatively as living room and bedroom, and two bedrooms on the second floor. Provision has been made for a bathroom to be installed on the second floor, as well. The kitchen wing now has a large kitchen, a family room with a loft area, a laundry room, and a bathroom.

The house is now structurally sound, has new drywall throughout, new insulation, a new electrical service and wiring, including electric heating, a new plumbing system supplied by a newly drilled well. On the exterior there is a new cedar shingle roof, the chimneys have been rebuilt, and the original siding, shutters, and window sash have been refurbished and painted.

In large part as a budget consideration, a number of finishing details, which might be termed "own choice", have been left for installation by the purchaser — interior painting and decorating, floor finishes, kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanity, lighting fixtures, landscaping and garage improvements.

The restoration/renovation project is, for all practical purposes, complete, and the house is **FOR SALE**.

The project was fraught with pitfalls by virtue of the fact that it was a combination of restoration and renovation, and the Skinner/Jackson house, as it stands, is the result of a multitude of major and minor decisions, all involving considerations of authenticity, practicality, commodity, and of course budget.

The Skinner/Jackson project can undoubtedly be considered a success in terms of lessons learned, but the ultimate success of the project remains for the Heritage Committee to judge, and cannot be measured, of course, until the property has been sold. My Project Report to the Heritage Committee will outline several prerequisites and guidelines for consideration of council should the ACO choose to undertake a similar project.

Roy B. Turner
Project Manager



ROY TURNER

Skinner/Jackson House

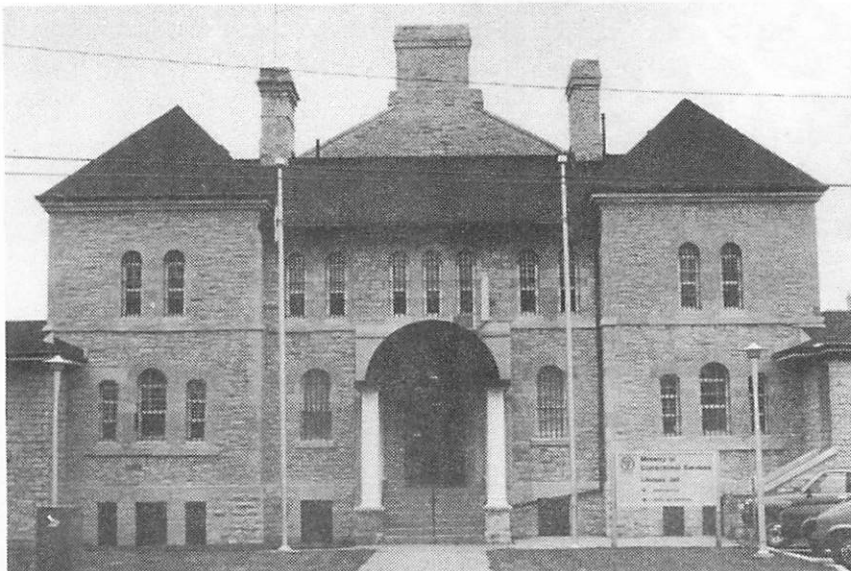
Lindsay

On occasion ACORN will feature an architecturally interesting town in Ontario.

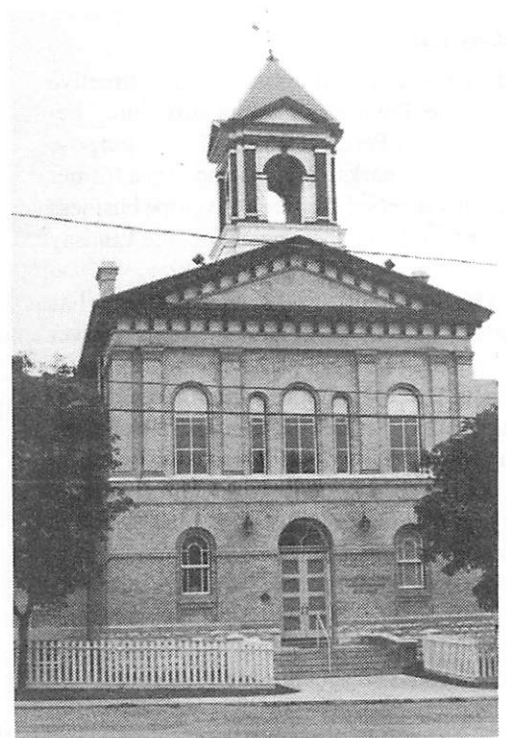
This summer while cruising the Trent Canal we decided to tie up at Rivera Park on the Scugog River in Lindsay and replenish the food and ice supply for our small houseboat. Several blocks of walking brought us to the heart of Lindsay. We were very favourably impressed with a beautiful parks system along the river and a substantial number of very good older buildings. Our planned two day stay stretched to five days which allowed me time to interview Glen Jones, superintendent for the Lindsay Board of Parks Management, Gabriele Wills, chairman of the Lindsay Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, who took us on a tour, John Quinn, co-ordinator of the Lindsay Main Street Project, and Milton Battersby, chairman of the Lindsay BIA (Business Improvement Area).

Historical Background

An Irishman, Patrick O'Connell, was the first white settler in 1825, followed closely by William Purdy and his sons Jesse and Hazard. Records seem to indicate they came from the Markham area where they had operated mills. William Purdy and his sons had a contract with government officials to place a ten foot dam on the Scugog River and construct a sawmill in 1825 and a grist mill in 1829. The Purdys, having met their obligations, were deeded a four hundred acre parcel of land in the eastern section of what was to become the Town of Lindsay. During a heavy spring run off in 1829 the new dam gave way. After repairs were made in 1830 the saw mill began operation.



Victoria County Jail 1863
Victoria Avenue North



Victoria County Court House 1863, Francis St.

In 1836 a government engineer, Mr. Baird, was sent out to lay out the lock. The mills had to be moved to allow for the construction of the lock. The mills were sold to Hiram Bigelow.

The actual townsite was surveyed in 1833, but the land was of poor quality, being covered by a dense cedar swamp and therefore making development slow and costly. In 1840 the soon to be principal street, Kent Street, was cleared and the town began to grow. By 1851 Lindsay had about 300 inhabitants, a grist mill with three run of stone, a sawmill, carding fulling mill, a foundry, a tannery, ashery and a Roman Catholic Church.¹

In 1857 Lindsay became a town. In that same year the railroad came in and development advanced at a rapid pace. Manufacturing and the mercantile trade grew quickly. The forest products of the northern townships created an "unprecedented boom" as they moved by rail through Lindsay to Port Hope and abroad.²

Lindsay had a major setback on July 11, 1861. A disastrous fire burned most of the downtown and when it was over some 91 buildings had been destroyed. The townspeople began to rebuild immediately, in brick not frame, and most of the older building stock in the downtown dates after 1861.

By 1967 the Town had 12,000 inhabitants and in 1990 20,000 people call it home.

1. Lindsay LACAC, *Bless These Walls*, Lindsay's Heritage, (Lindsay: Blewett Printing, 1982) p.3.
2. Ibid, p.4.

Lindsay Parks

Lindsay has a large number of very attractive parks. The Town was given a substantial bequest by Leroy Percival Wilson, for the purpose of developing parks. Mr. Wilson was a former owner of a successful church envelope business and the founder of the newspaper, the Lindsay Post.

The Board of Parks Management has greatly enhanced the banks of the Scugog River by developing Rivera Park where boats may tie up in most pleasant surrounding and McDonnell Park East and West on both sides of the river has attractive foot paths and beautiful flowers planted on the banks. The riverbank near the site of the "Old Mill" has a raised walkway with a lookout and benches. A new gazebo has been placed in the area. A bandshell is planned for the future. Fortunately a photo exists of the original one and thus the structure could be accurately reproduced.

BIA and the Main Street Programme

The BIA is very actively involved in the improvement of the business core. Lindsay has a wide main street, Kent Street. Angle parking is the order of the day, allowing for far more cars than is possible in parallel parking. The BIA encourages landlords to renovate their buildings in keeping with a set of voluntary architectural guidelines adopted by Council last fall. The BIA is also awaiting a streetscape design study being prepared by a London firm.

The Main Street Canada project is under the direction of John Quinn. He pointed out common problems of all downtowns, those of vacant buildings, and absentee landlords who do not maintain the buildings. This, however, is beginning to change. Some building owners have done sympathetic renovations and others are in the process. One such example is the Shopper's Drug Mart, co-owned by John Ackert and Bruce Faulkner. They have painted the brick facade in heritage colours and have devoted a section of the interior to an early drug store museum. John Quinn believes a contemporary addition to a restored building should be sympathetic to the architecture of the old building but not a reproduction of it.

The town is financially strapped due to growing pains. New subdivisions are springing up in the northwest section and a large condominium project known as Rivermill Village is being built on the banks of the Scugog River almost across from Rivera Park. At one time the site of Parkin's saw mill, the old stone mill has been extensively renovated and will become the recreation centre for the complex.



Lindsay Town Hall 1864
Kent Street near Cambridge Street

Lindsay Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC)

We were most fortunate to have a conducted tour of Lindsay Architecture by Gabriele Wills, the LACAC chairman. The LACAC is a very active group which has encouraged preservation and designation of historic buildings and has, among many other activities, produced an excellent walking tour booklet and a large hardcover book about Lindsay's architecture called *Bless These Walls* with many early photos of buildings.



Lindsay Fire Hall 1901
Cambridge St. N. near Kent St.

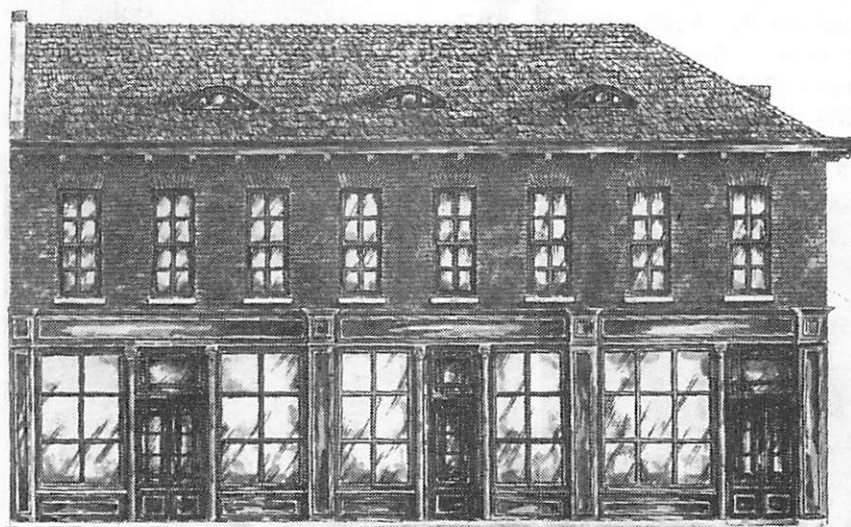
Historic Buildings

Lindsay is architecturally exciting. Space constraints allow me to highlight only a few of the many buildings of note in the town. Lindsay is the county seat for Victoria County and still



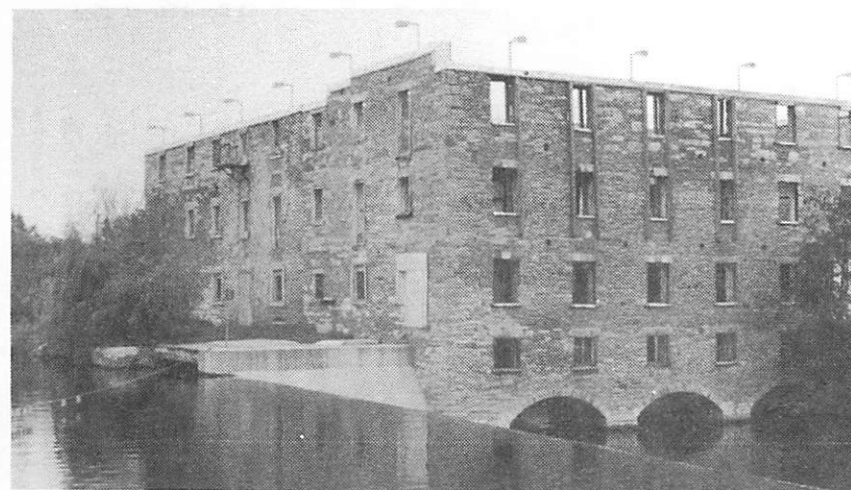
Academy Theatre 1892
Lindsay Street near Kent St. E.

BOB ROWELL



New Royal Hotel when renovation is complete
Corner of Kent and Lindsay Streets

DRAWN BY BARRY E. KING/COURTESY OF JOHN HUMPHRIES



The Old Mill 1869

BOB ROWELL

retains its Courthouse Square with an Italianate courthouse, jail and former registry office. The courthouse, built in 1863, was designed by J. Storm of Toronto and constructed of limestone and white brick.

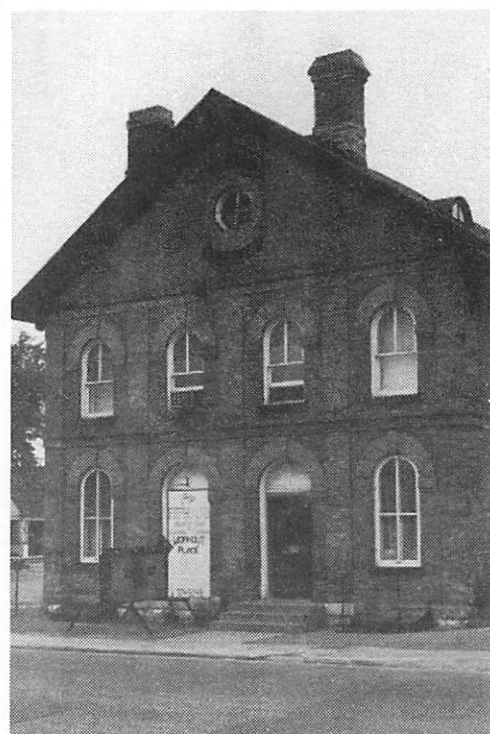
The town hall, another Italianate building, was designed by architect William Kauffman in 1864. Next to it stands the fire hall of 1901 with a 70 foot hose tower. Part of the building is a fire hall museum.

The Academy Theatre, the former opera house, was built in 1892. Designed by architect W. Blackwell of Peterborough, it exhibits some romanesque features and now houses the successful Kawartha Summer Theatre.

The former New Royal Hotel, built in 1851, was purchased by John Humphries and a partner. It is presently undergoing extensive renovations. Mr. Humphries' philosophy of renovation is to allow the building to tell you what it looked like originally and not to add details that were never there to begin with.

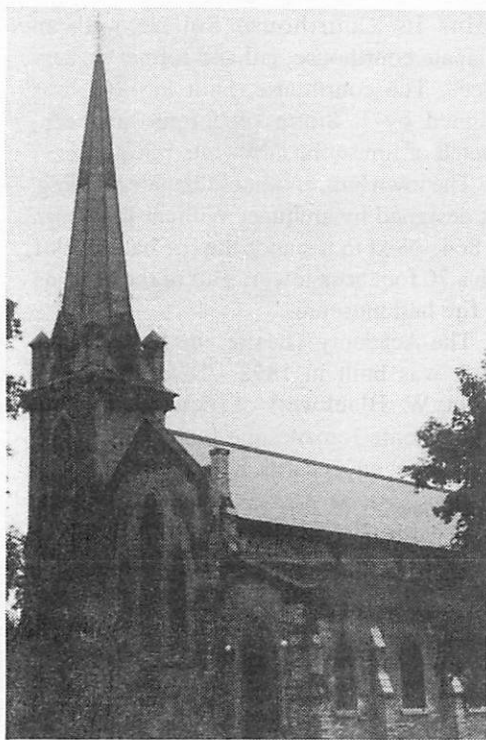
The old mill, built in 1869, was destroyed by fire in 1978. Only the exterior walls and no roof remain. The structure is owned by the Town. It is stabilized at the moment with future plans uncertain. The building has no street access unless the Brewer's Retail moves to another site and the present building is demolished. Some proposals have been to sell it to private enterprise and develop it as an upscale hotel or restaurant, or develop it as a ruin.

The C. L. Baker building, built in 1868 with Italianate design elements, is a fine com-



Baker Building 1868
8 Cambridge St. N.

BOB ROWELL



BOB ROWELL

St. Paul's Anglican Church 1885
45 Russell St. W.

mercial building featuring eyebrow dormers and hooded segmental windows.

Lindsay is blessed with a number of fine churches. St. Paul's Anglican was built in 1885. The Toronto firm of Stewart and Denison were the architects. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was designed by William Duffus of Lindsay in 1887. The building has references to the medieval castle style with its battlements and narrow lancet windows in the bell tower.



BOB ROWELL

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 1887
40 William St. N.



BOB ROWELL

60 Bond Street 1874

A number of Lindsay homes are very good architecturally. The home at 60 Bond Street, built in 1874 by John McLennan, Sheriff of Victoria County, has both Georgian and Italianate details. Another house at 62 Bond Street, built by the first Sheriff of Victoria County in 1865, is Georgian in style with a beautiful segmentally arched three part window in the centre of the second storey.



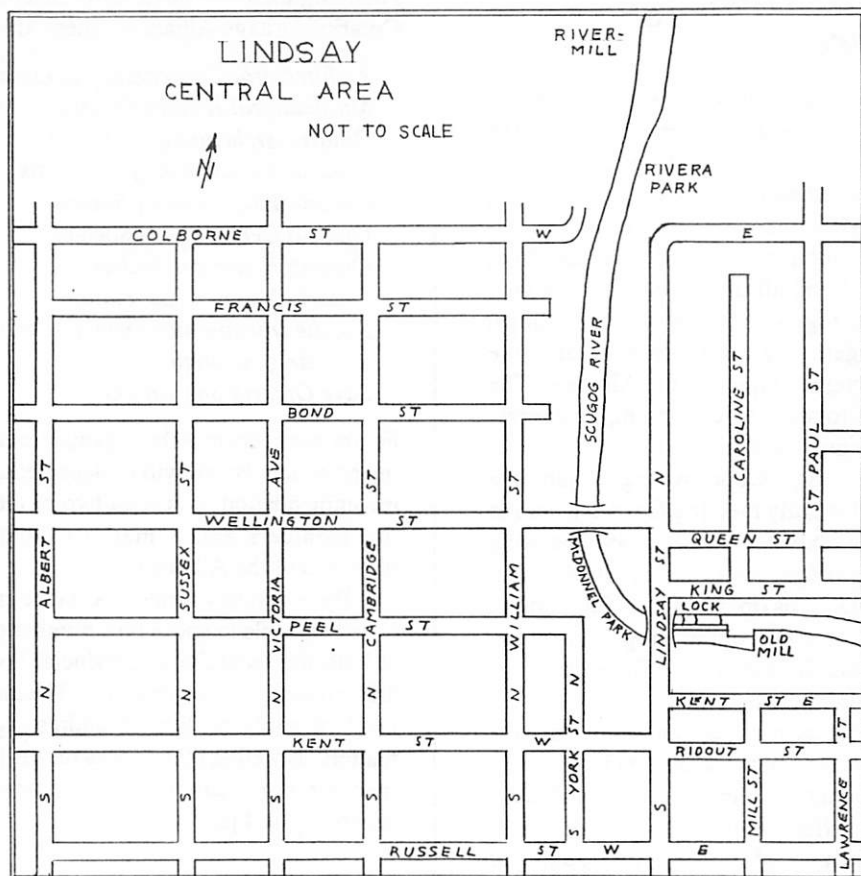
BOB ROWELL

62 Bond Street 1865



BOB ROWELL

9 Russell Street c. 1868



DRAWN BY BOB ROWELL



BOB ROWELL

11 Victoria Avenue North late 1870s
Near Peel Street

The house at 9 Russell Street is now owned by John Humphries. It is a business known as "The English Room Antiques". Built by A. Hudspeth circa 1868 in the Georgian style, it originally had a large verandah. The interior woodwork and plaster is quite exceptional as are the six marble mantles.

The house at the corner of Peel and Victoria Streets is now apartments. It probably dates to the later 1870s. It has a striking resemblance to Annandale, the Tillson House in Tillsonburg (see ACORN XIV 2 Summer 1989).

If you are anywhere in the Lindsay area do take a good look. It is well worth seeing.

Marg Rowell

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Ontario Heritage Alliance

One of the most positive changes in the activities of the heritage community in the province in recent years has been the reformation and strengthening of the Ontario Heritage Alliance. More than any other force, the Alliance has demonstrated that it is an excellent vehicle to defend all of our legacies: be they cemeteries, registry documents, buildings, museums, genealogical records — all have found a strong champion in the Alliance. The ACO looks forward to continuing its aggressive involvement with the Alliance.

The Heritage Coordinating Committee had been informally meeting for over a decade to facilitate sharing of information among Ontario's heritage associations. In the past, these organizations operated in isolation often duplicating or overlapping programmes and services in significant ways. These meetings have eased many pressures.

Recently, as most of the members have some relationship with the provincial Ministry of Culture and Communications, we have jointly been effective in approaching government on issues of policy, procedure or information requirements. In June, 1989, the Committee agreed to pursue a more formal arrangement among its members. The first of these steps was the change of name to the ONTARIO HERITAGE ALLIANCE, the development of mission and object statements.

In keeping with the traditions of the Ontario Heritage Alliance, our mission has been defined as

The Ontario Heritage Alliance, consisting of organizations with purposes to protect, preserve, conserve, research, or display the heritage of the province of Ontario for future generations, shall pursue the betterment of their joint and individual aims and objectives by sharing information and pursuing common concerns.

In pursuit of this mission, the following objectives have been established:

- *to function as the agent for formulating joint responses to government policies,*
- *to provide a forum for the exchange of information affecting the heritage community,*
- *to foster an environment where skills can be exchanged which will promote better management and administration of heritage organizations, and*
- *to better ensure that our activities enhance the heritage field and society.*

Founding members shall form the core of the Ontario Heritage Alliance. These are

*Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
Multicultural History Society
Ontario Archaeological Society
Ontario Association of Archivists
Ontario Black History Society
Ontario Genealogical Society
Ontario Historical Society
Ontario Museum Association
Société franco-ontarienne d'histoire et
de généalogie
Save Ontario Shipwrecks*

Future members must be organizations operating provincially and will be accepted upon the recommendation of at least two of the founding members and a majority vote of the members of the Alliance.

By working together, Alliance members have been able to speak on a number of issues at both the federal and provincial levels that affect the heritage community. The increasing level of sophistication in addressing policy matters, as well as other issues means that each member organization has become stronger separately and jointly.

Alec Keefer

Coming Events

A Grand Tour And Celebration

To salute ACORN,
its editors past and present,
and the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10th, 1990

The Celebration Program

- 11:00 a.m. - A tour of *Barnum House, Grafton*
: Where it all began, with Peter Stokes as guide
- Noon - Lunch
- 2:30 p.m. - A tour by bus of historic buildings of Cobourg including *Victoria Hall*,
guided by A. K. Sculthorpe
- 5:30 p.m. - Sherry reception and dinner in
Osler Hall, at Trinity College School, Port Hope
A magnificent meal in an historic chapel now converted to an almost
baronial banquet hall.

This occasion honours *Dr. Peter Stokes* and *Marion Garland* who were
editors of ACORN 1976 to 1990 and introduces the new editor *Margaret
Rowell*

GUEST SPEAKER: John Honsberger, Q.C., L.S.M.

John Honsberger is the founding editor of the Law Society of Upper Canada
which is in its 24th year of publication. He is also a founding
director of the Osgoode Society, founded in 1979 to encourage research
and writing in the history of Canadian Law.

His address will be on *The Importance of a Small Critical Press*.

The Program Continues - Sunday, 11th

- 10:30 a.m. - For those still with us, we will take a brief tour of the major attractions of
Port Hope and then travel to *Brougham* for a tour of *Bentley House* again
with the help of Peter Stokes.

How You Can Participate

- Option A - The Full Program \$105.00
: Includes bus fare from Kitchener and Toronto, all tours, celebration dinner
at TCS, bed and breakfast in Port Hope and a \$20. donation to ACO
- Option B - Saturday dinner \$50.00
: Includes the celebration dinner at TCS and a \$20. donation to ACO
- Option C - Donation only \$?
: For those who cannot attend, a donation directly to ACO in support of
ACORN. Receipt will be issued.

To reserve a seat on the bus OR a place at dinner,
please send your name, address, phone number,
and cheque in favour of Architectural Conservancy Ontario to:

Mrs. Donna Baker
299 Heath Street East
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1T3
1-416-488-3719 (evenings)

Indicate on your reservation letter if you require two beds at the bed and breakfast and if you prefer a
house with no pets. The cost of your bed and breakfast will be fully transferred to ACO by your host.
You will be contacted by phone when your reservation is received and advised about bus pickup times
and places.

ACT QUICKLY

Be part of a grand tour and a great occasion!

**If not Delivered Please
Return to:
The Architectural Conservancy
of Ontario
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3**

